

# ALASKA The DPS Newsletter



WELCOME

A Department of Public Safety publication "Public Safety through Public Service"

2008



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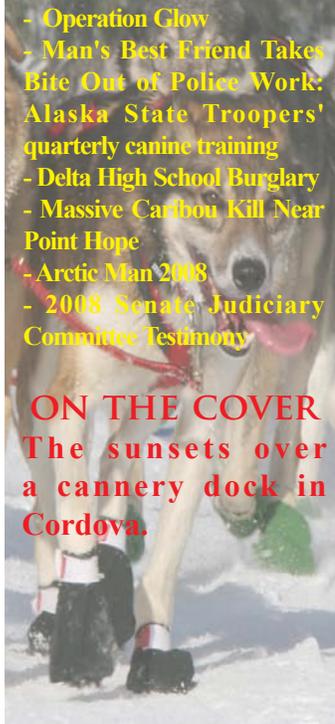
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ON THE COVER  
The sunsets over a cannery dock in Cordova.



DPS WELCOMES BACK MASTERS



Newly appointed Commissioner Joseph Masters visited Department offices in Juneau recently to meet with people from Administrative Services, Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Alaska Police Standards Council, Alaska State Troopers and Alaska Wildlife Troopers.

Joseph Masters returned to the Department of Public Safety, a department he spent two decades serving, after Gov. Sarah Palin named him as its commissioner on Sept. 12.

In those 20 years, Masters served in a variety of positions as both a brown and blue shirt, capping off those duties as the deputy director of Alaska State Troopers.

“It is humbling for me to rejoin the many dedicated men and women that keep this state protected and give us the peace of mind to sleep at night,” Masters said. “I have the utmost respect for all those on the front lines providing law enforcement, resource protection, fire services and scientific services, as well as those that operate behind the scenes. At times your work may seem to go unnoticed, but I assure you it does not.”

Masters grew up in Unalaska where he graduated from high school in 1982. He began his career in law enforcement that has so far spanned 24 years, starting as the Village Public Safety Officer in Unalakleet. Afterwards, he served as a police officer in both Unalakleet and Unalaska. A majority of his experience has been with the Alaska State Troopers both in urban and rural locations, beginning with his graduation from the DPS Academy in 1986.

In 1999, he transferred to the Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection where he rose to the rank of captain and was assigned as commander of the detachment patrolling Western Alaska. He was promoted to deputy director of AST in June 2003, a position he held until his retirement in 2005.

“When you spend as much time as I have in DPS and the Alaska State Troopers, there is no way that the organization cannot become an integral part of who you are,” Masters said. “I am truly blessed and honored to be entrusted with the responsibility of Commissioner by Governor Palin.”

As with any change in executive leadership, there will be adjustments, but Masters insists these changes will be thought out and made with input from members of the Department.

“Although we do operate under a chain of

command and have a necessary structure, I do believe in open doors and in discussions and input from all levels,” he said. “Our organization must strive to always move toward continual improvement in our delivery of service. We need to be operationally sound, efficient with our resources and use our people in the most effective manner.”



Commissioner Masters

Master’s immediate focus is conducting a review of DPS to take a fresh look at operations, efficiencies, equipment and training needs. Several priorities will continue, he said, such as filling vacancies with qualified candidates, looking for ways to deal with alcohol and drug offenses and to combat violence against women.

Masters said he operates with very simple principals: integrity above all else; put your resources where they are most needed; never tolerate mediocrity; take care of the little things, and the big things will tend to take care of themselves.

Before being tapped as DPS commissioner, Masters was working for Doyon Universal Services as the Director of Security for Petrochemical Operations overseeing protective services for a majority of Alaska’s national and state designated critical infrastructures.

Masters is also heavily involved in the community. He has been a board member of the Alaska Native Justice Center since 2005. Masters has also served on the Alaska Inter-Tribal Council, the Committee on Government to Government Relations, the Mat-Su Commission on Police Powers, the Board of Western Community Oriented Policing, the Civil Air Patrol and the Alaska Rural Justice Commission. Masters is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Alaska Association of Chiefs of Police, the Alaska Peace Officers Association, the American Society of Law Enforcement Trainers, the Fraternal Order of Alaska State Troopers and the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association. He is considered an expert in the area of law enforcement policy, procedures, training and management in Alaska.

Masters currently lives in Anchorage with his wife, Michelle. Together they have three children who are now grown and out on their own. ■

# DENALI AWARDS



Domestic Violence Training Program Coordinator Katie TePas, Helo I Pilot Mel Nading and Alaska State Trooper Sgt. Bryan Barlow receive their 2007 Governor's Peak Performance awards on May 5.

Department of Public Safety employees Domestic Violence Training Program Coordinator Katie TePas, Helo I Pilot Mel Nading and Alaska State Trooper Sgt. Bryan Barlow were selected as 2007 Governor's Peak Performance Denali Award winners by the governor's task force.

The award was established in 2007 to recognize state employees who demonstrate a commitment to building and maintaining a culture of superior customer service, exceptional individual and team performance and excellence in leadership.

The three were among hundreds of nominations submitted by state departments, including 28 from DPS. Six other state employees from other departments were selected for the governor's award.

TePas was recognized for exceptional leadership for her work toward preventing crimes of sexual assault and domestic violence. Despite facing logistical challenges, TePas has traveled extensively across Alaska to educate Alaskans on the strategies and tragedies that encompass sexual assault and domestic violence crimes. According to her nomination for the award, TePas spends an average of 130 days a year traveling throughout Alaska, sometimes by river boat or small airplane.

Anchorage-based state pilot Nading and Barlow, the Girdwood post supervisor, were honored for their exceptional performance as a team during the rescue of a young man after he was knocked out of his kayak by a strong bore tide in Turnagain Arm on July 29, 2007. ■

Those who were nominated within the Department of Public Safety for the Governor's Denali Peak Performance Award were recognized at DPS's Second Annual Ice Cream Social at headquarters on June 11. Those who were selected by their peers for this recognition are:

**CUSTOMER SERVICE – INDIVIDUAL**

**Trp. Karl Erickson** in Unalakleet  
**Alina Kalii**, Analyst Programmer  
**Abirami Chidambaram**, DNA Criminalist  
**Dena Bronson**, AWT Administrative Clerk in Soldotna

**CUSTOMER SERVICE – TEAM**

Anchor Post/Ninilchik posts personnel **Sgt. Arthur "Tom" Dunn**, **Ryan Browning**, **David Sherbahn**, **Mike Henry**, **Trp. Greg Pealatore** and **Administrative Clerk Betsy Kesner**

**CO-WORKER RECOGNITION**

**Janeice Amick**, Trace Criminalist at the Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory  
**Investigator Scott Briggs**, Soldotna ABI  
**Cpl. Grant Miller** at DPS Academy  
**Sherry Ridling**, Soldotna Admin Clerk  
**Aniak AWT Trp. Timothy Hall**  
**Agent Tom Lopez** in Juneau  
**Pilot Trp. John Chiri**

**EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE – INDIVIDUAL**

**Matt Timken**, Data Communications Specialist II with the Network Support Group  
**Trp. Terrence Shanigan** in Talkeetna  
**Anna "Terrie" Satterfield**, Criminal Justice Technician at the Civilian Process Server and Security Guard Licensing  
**Jan Redford**, Soldotna Admin Supervisor  
**Trp. Neal Fulks** in Seward  
**Cpl. Joe Hamilton** of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board

**EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE – TEAM**

AST **Sgt. Bryan Barlow**, State Pilot **Melvin Nading**

**LEADERSHIP**

**Katie TePas**, Domestic Violence Training Program Coordinator  
**Lt. James Helgoe**, DPS Academy Commander  
**Gary Wheeler**, supervisor of the governor's detail



Alina Kalii an Analyst Programmer, receives her award from Statewide Services Director David Schade.



Anna "Terrie" Satterfield, a Criminal Justice Tech, gets her award from Schade.



Dena Ross, the AWT Administrative Clerk in Soldotna, receives her award from AWT Maj. Steve Bear.



Trace Criminalist Janeice Amick and DNA Criminalist Abirami Chidambaram receive their awards from Crime Lab Director Orin Dym.



Matt Timken, Data Communications Specialist II with the Network Support Group, receives his award from Schade.

# TROOPERS TAKE DUTY TO DISTANT LANDS

## AWT pilot flies missions in Iraq

BY BETH IPSEN, PIO

For a year, King Salmon-based Alaska Wildlife Trooper **Sgt. Justin Lindell** wore a different uniform and flew a distinctive aircraft over unusual terrain while deployed to Iraq with the Alaska Army National Guard.

Lindell, who's been a trooper since 2001, has been in the Army both on active duty and the Army National Guard since 1992. He has been in Army aviation the entire time and has flown the OH-58 Kiawas, UH-1 and UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters in many different units ranging from Air Calvary to Air Assault.

Until April, Chief Warrant Officer Three Lindell served as a UH-60 Pilot-In-Command/Air Mission Commander with B Co., 2-147 Air Assault Helicopter Battalion based out of Balad, Iraq and attached to the Army's 12th Combat Aviation Brigade out of Germany. The unit is a combination of National Guard aviation units from Minnesota, Washington, Hawaii, and elements from other states including Alaska, Oregon and Nevada.

Lindell flew all over Iraq hauling troops and spent most of his time in the Baghdad area. He was activated in April 2007 and was not scheduled to be return until August. However, his deployment



Alaska Wildlife Trooper and Army National Guard pilot Justin Lindell, in front on the right, and his crew display the American flag they flew on a mission in Iraq.

was curtailed by two months so he could attend UH-60 Instructor Pilot School at Fort Rucker, Ala. He returned to Alaska and was back on the job Aug. 15 flying hunting patrols in King Salmon.

"It's nice to be home and I hope I don't ever have to leave Alaska again," he said after his return.

Lindell's normal unit in the Alaska Army National Guard is A Co., 1-207th Aviation, based out of Bethel. However, he was the only pilot from Alaska deployed with his unit in Iraq.

"I was one of the only pilots from my unit in Alaska that had not been deployed during the last rotations and so my number was up when this one came around," he explained via e-mail while still deployed to Iraq.

While in Iraq, Lindell flew the American flag and the Alaska State Trooper flag on a flight.

(Lindell, continued on page 5)



A U.S. Army UH-60 Blackhawk flies over Iraq during a mission.

## Troopers serve together in Qatar

BY BETH IPSEN, PIO

**Alaska State Trooper Larry Erickson** and **Alaska Wildlife Trooper John Cyr** both returned in February from a deployment with the Alaska Air National Guard in Qatar with accolades for a job well done.

The pair was attached to the 8<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar from October 2007 until January 2008.

During the 4-1/2 month deployment, Cyr was awarded Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Quarter in October of 2007 while he was the NCO in charge of the busiest air passenger terminal in the U.S. Central Command. The technical sergeant was instrumental in the airlift of over 60,000 troops and 4,500 tons of equipment in just under 90 days, eliminating 210 ground convoys and thereby keeping 9,600 American troops out of harms way, according to his award. Cyr estimates he was

(Qatar, continued on page 5)



Palmer Alaska Wildlife Trooper John Cyr and Soldotna Sgt. Larry Erickson look happy on their flight en route to Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar for the beginning of their deployment.

## Lindell, continued from page 4

“I asked Shelley Cubbedge at the Kodiak Post to get me a trooper flag as I wanted to fly a mission and present an American flag and a trooper flag to the Trooper Museum on behalf of my family, the Alaska Guard and the troopers I work with everyday,” Lindell wrote.

He got more than he expected. He received a box from the museum with hats, shirts, patches, pins and many other memorabilia along with a trooper flag.

On Oct. 11, 2007, he flew the flags in a UH-60 Blackhawk on a mission over Iraq while he was acting as pilot in command that day. Both flags were displayed in the front window of the helicopter and accompanied the crew on the combat mission while they flew troops into a remote outpost south of Baghdad.

The mission lasted about seven hours.

“It was a long, hot day,” Lindell said.

Once the mission was finished, he had a picture taken of his crew that flew with him that day. He also had a certificate made to present to the museum. **AWT Director Col. Gary Folger** presented both flags to the museum on Lindell’s behalf along with the picture and the certificate.

During his deployment, Lindell flew hundreds of hours in Iraq and looked forward to going back to work for the troopers because “hunters and fishermen don’t usually shoot at me

## Qatar, continued from page 4

instrumental in airlifting a total of 81,000 troops during his deployment. He was also in charge of the largest duty section in the 8<sup>th</sup> EAMS. His section of 18 airmen broke records for the amount of equipment and people transported during the deployment.

“My guys worked very hard,” Cyr said. “The troops that we put on the plane allowed troops to come home.”

Cyr was also one of seven people in the 8<sup>th</sup> EAMS to receive a medal – the Air Force Commendation Medal – for his efforts in Qatar.

Meanwhile, Erickson received the Air Transporter Airman of the year for 2007 the entire U.S. Air Force. The award earned him a trip to Reno, Nevada in April, two months after he returned from his deployment. Erickson, who was promoted to staff sergeant in January 2008, received the Airman of the Year for his unit in Alaska – the 176<sup>th</sup> Logistic Readiness Squadron.

Cyr and Erickson worked at the aerial port loading and unloading aircraft with cargo, explosives, ammunition and personnel. Cyr worked in the bags section loading troops on aircraft and Erickson worked in the ramp section, loading the cargo and munitions onto aircraft.

The deployment was the first with the Alaska Air National Guard for Erickson, but not his first in military service. Erickson deployed for Operation Just Cause invasion of Panama in 1989 while he was a Marine. Erickson was a bomb dog handler in the military police. He’s also been a dog handler with AST in the past.

“This deployment gave me an understanding of the ‘big picture’ of what our military and country is going



A birds-eye view of Baghdad from a UH-60 Blackhawk.

everyday when I fly over,” he joked.

“I am proud to be here and honored to serve my country, but I am looking forward to going back to work and flying the R-44 out in King Salmon again,” he said. “As far as the danger goes, we routinely get shot at and yes, some of our birds do come back with bullet holes and other battle damage. I have been lucky in that all of the times I got shot at, they missed.” ■



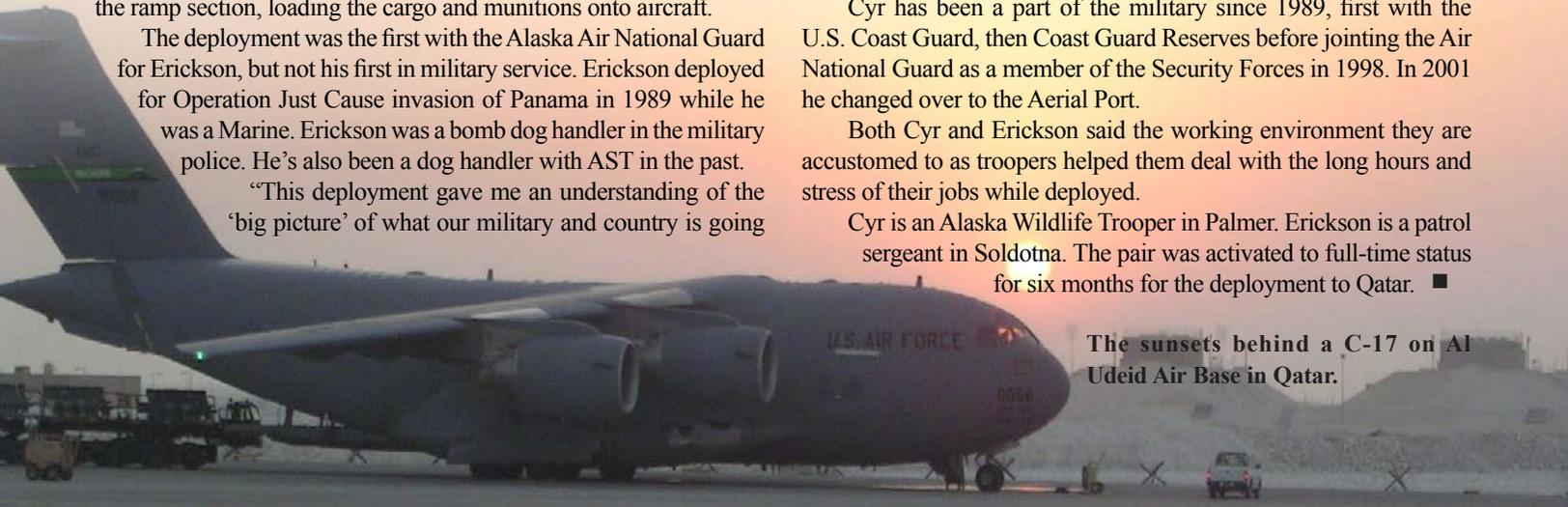
Larry Erickson is hard at work loading a C-17 aircraft while deployed to Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar

through and how stretched to the limit our military is right now,” Erickson said. “(Air National Guard) makes up a large part of the deployed force in the Middle East.”

Cyr has been a part of the military since 1989, first with the U.S. Coast Guard, then Coast Guard Reserves before joining the Air National Guard as a member of the Security Forces in 1998. In 2001 he changed over to the Aerial Port.

Both Cyr and Erickson said the working environment they are accustomed to as troopers helped them deal with the long hours and stress of their jobs while deployed.

Cyr is an Alaska Wildlife Trooper in Palmer. Erickson is a patrol sergeant in Soldotna. The pair was activated to full-time status for six months for the deployment to Qatar. ■



The sunsets behind a C-17 on Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar.

# 20 GRADUATE FROM D.A.R.E. TRAINING



Those who participated in the Drug and Alcohol Resistance Education training: Back row: D.A.R.E. State Coordinator Naomi Sweetman; Chandler, Ariz. Police Officer Dave Parsons, Bethel VPSO John Pleasant; Anchorage Police Officer Amanda Fisher; Trp Kyle Carson; retired Sierra Vista, Ariz. Police Officer Randy Kirkman; Akutan VPSO Jay Levan; Anchorage Police Officer Rayne Reynolds; and Military Police Capt. David Eastman. Third row: St. George VPSO Michael Lejarzar; Nunapitchuk VPSO Jacob Tobeluk; Ekwok VPSO Cpl. Dan Decker; Koliganek VPSO Sgt. Gust Tunguing Jr.; Akiak VPSO Sgt. Ben Beaver; Juneau Police Officer Chris Burke; and Tuntutuliak VPSO Cpl. Wassillie Gilila. Second row: Dillingham Police Officer Tracy O'Malley; Fort Richardson Police Investigator Kenneth Gonzalez; Fort Richardson Police Officer Lynne Gralewski-Baugus; North Slope Borough Police Officer Theodore Sharpe; U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer Duskin Jones; Kenai Police Officer Kelly George; and State D.A.R.E. Educator Debbra Brewer. First row: Mountain Village VPSO Cpl. Alvin Brown; mentor Trp. Dan Cox; Anchorage Police Officer Jonathan Carroll; Seward Police Officer Patrick Parrish-Messmer; and Togiak Police Chief Aaron Parker.



Those who got their Darren are, from left to right, Village Public Safety Officer Cpl. Alvin Brown of Mountain Village; VPSO Jay Levan of Akutan; VPSO Cpl. Wassillie Gillila of Tuntutuliak; VPSO John Pleasant of Bethel; VPSO Michael Lejarzar of St. George; U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer Duskin Jones; and North Slope Borough Police Officer Theodore Sharpe.

The Alaska Drug Abuse Resistance Education Training Center graduated 20 new D.A.R.E. Officers on Feb. 15, at the Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel in Anchorage. Many Village Public Safety Officers were among the ranks of the officers who attended an intense 80-hour training that began on Feb. 4 and ended with the graduation ceremony.

D.A.R.E. is a cooperative effort by state and local law enforcement, communities, schools and parents with the goal of preventing substance abuse and violent behavior before it starts. The D.A.R.E. curriculum is taught by specially trained police officers to Alaskan kids in grades kindergarten through high school. It is unique in that it is a prevention program, builds positive relationships between students and police, and teaches critical decision-making skills that will last kids a lifetime. Each year the program continues to achieve growth.

According to Naomi Sweetman, the state D.A.R.E. program coordinator, in the 2006-2007 school year, the D.A.R.E. program reached 6 percent of Alaska's youth. In addition, the program has seen a 23 percent increase in D.A.R.E. officers, an increase in communities that have adopted the D.A.R.E. program and an 11 percent increase in police agency participation.

Yearly surveys show that teachers and school administrators highly praise the program and their D.A.R.E. officers. Finally, the D.A.R.E. program continues to work successfully in both urban and rural settings throughout Alaska.

During the training, the entire group was broken into five teams lead by D.A.R.E. mentors from departments around the state, and Arizona. At end of the training, each mentor selected one outstanding team member as exhibiting qualities that set them apart from their fellow team members. Those who were recognized were VPSO Jacob Tobeluk of AVCP; Fort Richardson Police Department Officer Lynne Gralewski-Baugus; VPSO Cpl. Alvin Brown of AVCP; VPSO Cpl. Wassillie Gilila of AVCP; VPSO Sgt. Ben Beaver of AVCP and Anchorage Police Officer Rayne Reynolds, who was named outstanding member for the entire class. ■

# NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

BY AMANDA MULDOON, ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK II, D DETACHMENT

National Law Enforcement Day was created by President John F. Kennedy in 1962, but it took 20 years before any police group actually celebrated National Peace Officers' Memorial Week. The first annual candlelight vigil was held in 1989 on the site of what was going to be National Police Memorial. Then in 1991, President George Bush dedicated the memorial. Finally, National Peace Officer Memorial Day (May 15) was signed into law by President Bill Clinton in 1994.

As of June 3, 42 officers' lives were lost in 2008. In 2007, 181 officers were killed in the line of duty in the United States – the deadliest year since the twin towers collapsed on the responding officers on Sept. 11, 2001. Their names, along with 177 names of fallen officers from previous years were added to the National Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington D.C. during police memorial week in May.

Each year, events are scheduled in Washington D.C. during police memorial week to bring together the officers who still serve and protect, as well as honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Groups such as the National Concerns of Police Survivors Organization and the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund help organize and sponsor activities, such as various religious services, a golf tournament, bike ride, pipes and drums services, an honor guard competition, the candlelight vigil, the Annual National Peace Officers Memorial Day Services and the proceeding wreath laying ceremony.

An estimated 20,000 survivors, officers and supporters attended this year's candlelight vigil that is held every May 13. Several speakers thanked the families of fallen officers as well as commemorated the names of those added to the wall. Everyone was given a candle lit from the flame of the ceremonial candle at dusk.

One of the many National Peace Officers Memorial Day Services was held on the capital lawn May 15. Thousands of officers and family members attended the ceremony. There were guest speakers, songs, prayers and even nice weather. The ceremony concluded with the traditional laying of the wreath at the memorial, which closed police memorial week. There was even a small memorial to honor the K-9 officers who also made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

Since 2006, I have attended the Fairbanks Police officer memorial services and this year had the honor of attending National Police week in our nation's capital. I cannot describe what it is like to be in Washington D.C. with so many thousands of officers from around the world. We played together, prayed together, thanked those that were still with us and remembered those we had lost. It was a humbling and truly memorable experience that I will never forget and recommend that every member of law enforcement attend National Police Memorial week at least once.

I have only been with Alaska State Troopers for two years, and as I looked for the names of our troopers who had perished in the line of duty, I was saddened by the fact that I would never be able to meet those incredible officers. ■



Scottish pipe and drums groups perform during National Peace Officers Memorial week.



Mementos of those peace officers killed in the line of duty are left on a wall at the National Law Enforcement Memorial.



An honor guard competes during a National Peace Officers Memorial week in Washington D.C. in May.

## ALASKA DPS MEMBERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

**TROOPER DENNIS FINBAR CRONIN**

February 18, 1974

**TROOPER LARRY ROBERT**

December 11, 1974

**TROOPER FRANK STUART RODMAN CARR**

December 11, 1974

**TROOPER C. W. "WALT" ZAHN**

October 26, 1978

**TROOPER ROLAND EDGAR CHEVALIER, JR.**

April 3, 1982

**FISH AND WILDLIFE PROTECTION JOHN STIMSON**

January 14, 1983

**TROOPER TROY LYNN DUNCAN**

May 19, 1984

**TROOPER ROBERT L. BITTICK**

October 11, 1994

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER C. E. SWACKHAMMER**

October 11, 1994

**TROOPER BRUCE ALAN HECK**

January 10, 1997

**FISH AND WILDLIFE PROTECTION DAVID**

**CHURCHILL**

September 16, 1998

**FISH AND WILDLIFE PROTECTION JAMES A. MOEN**

June 25, 2001

**TROOPER HANS PETER LOTHAR ROELLE**

November 24, 2001

# ALASKA POLICE MEMORIAL DAY MAY 9, 2008





# OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER



## SAFETY BILLS BECOME LAWS

A number of bills pertaining to the Department of Public Safety were passed during the 2008 legislative session.

Of the bunch, Gov. Sarah Palin signed into law two bills in June – one that will make Alaska's roadways safer and another to give stiffer penalties for bootlegging and help law enforcement track down stolen property and prosecute sex crimes.

After six years, **HB 88** passed the House and Senate making it a serious crime to drive while watching a movie or text messaging.

Rep. Carl Gatto (R-Wasilla) and Rep. Max Gruenberg (D-Anchorage) co-sponsored this legislation that aims to keep drivers' attention focused on the road. Palin signed the bill at the Congregation Beth Sholom on June 13.

**HB 88** was introduced after a prominent local couple was killed on the Seward Highway in 2002 by a driver who was allegedly watching a DVD. The distracted driver crossed the center line and slammed into the couple's car. This legislation makes it a class "A" felony to have any viewable electronic device in the driver's view, if a fatal accident results. It will be a lesser felony if a lesser injury results and a misdemeanor if no accident results.

Palin signed a Senate **Bill 265** Omnibus Crime bill on June 5. This bill rolled several crime bills, including the governor's own, into one. The bill, sponsored by Sen. Lesil McGuire (R-Anchorage), bars convicted sex offenders from receiving a Permanent Fund Dividend if they fail to keep their information current on the state Sex Offender Registry. **SB 265** also makes more than a dozen changes to the state's criminal codes. They include:

- Makes a third offense for bootlegging within 15 years a class C felony, which carries a maximum fine of \$50,000 and five years in jail.
- Calls for pawnshops in cities with a population above 5,000 to maintain electronic records of all transactions to help law enforcement officials track down stolen property.
- Allows the state to pursue court-ordered restitution from anyone convicted

of unlawfully taking game.

- Funds a special investigator, prosecutor and computer technician to detect and prosecute internet sex crimes.

The bill passed the House and the Senate unanimously.

Other bills that passed:

**HB 19:** Requires the installation of an ignition interlock into the offender's vehicle in order to get a limited license following a DUI conviction. DPS lead Lt. Rodney Dial.

**HB 29:** Will allow parents to surrender an infant shortly after birth without being criminally prosecuted.

**HB 65:** Adopts major changes in Alaska law to protect personal information and provide other mechanisms to combat identity theft. DPS lead Statewide Services Director Dave Schade.

**HB 75:** Causes a person's driver's license to expire 90 days after they turn 21 years old. At that time, they will need to pass an alcohol awareness test before being issued a new license. DPS lead former Alcohol Beverage Control Board Director Doug Griffin.

**HB 193:** Adds two new members to the Alaska Police Standards Council: a correctional officer and a police officer. DPS lead Alaska Police Standards Council Director Terry Vrabec.

**HB 267:** Allows Alaska to join other states in entering into a Wildlife Violator Compact, an interstate agreement to enhance compliance with the hunting and fishing laws, ordinances and regulations of participating states, while providing for the fair and impartial treatment of wildlife violators. Currently there are 26 states participating in the compact. DPS lead AWT Capt. Burke Waldron.

**HB 268:** Makes it a felony to commit vehicular arson on state or municipal land. DPS leads Lt. Rodney Dial and State Fire Marshal Dave Tyler.

**HB 286:** Makes it a class C felony to impersonate a peace officer with the intent to do harm. Previously in the state of Alaska, it was a class B misdemeanor to impersonate a public servant.

**HB 307:** Makes the third assault conviction in 10 years a felony as applied to

offenses committed on or after the effective date of this bill. It is not retroactive. It also prohibits a person from killing or injuring an animal with the intent to intimidate, threaten or terrorize another person. It makes animal cruelty a class C felony if the defendant had been convicted on two separate occasions in the previous 10 years of animal cruelty. DPS leads Lt. Rodney Dial and Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Director Chris Ashenbrenner.

**HB 320:** Extends workers' compensation coverage to volunteers during the course of providing search and rescue services that have been authorized by DPS. DPS leads Lt. Rodney Dial and Lt. Barry Wilson.

**HB 331:** Would reduce the penalty for a person who does not notify the state of a change of name or address on a driver's license or similar document to an infraction punishable by a maximum fine of \$25, rather than the current default misdemeanor penalty. It also requires the court impose at least a \$500 fine for conviction of the crime of not carrying proof of insurance whenever the person is driving a motor vehicle – a class B misdemeanor.

**HB 334:** Extends the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault until 2014. DPS lead Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Director Chris Ashenbrenner.

**HB 351:** Amends the requirements of submitting two sets of fingerprint cards to the DPS to submitting one set when applying for a concealed handgun permit. It also changes the FBI approved fingerprint card to a format approved by the department. DPS lead Criminal Records and Identification Bureau Chief Kathy Monfreda.

**HB 400:** Allows a mitigating factor in sentencing for crimes involving controlled substances if the defendant sought medical assistance for another person who was experiencing a drug overdose.

**House Joint Resolution 34:** Urges the United States Congress to reauthorize the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program. By reauthorizing this program,

(Bills, continued on page 10)

# COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

BY PAUL MCCARTHY, ASSOCIATE COUNCIL COORDINATOR

The Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault leads the Alaska government response to domestic violence by coordinating services, gathering and disseminating data and securing funding for services through federal and state sources. The Council was established by Alaska State Statute in 1981, and located within the Department of Public Safety. Other departments were also considered as the home for the Council, such as the Department of Health and Social Services. However, given the seriousness of domestic violence and sexual abuse and assault as crimes, DPS was chosen to house the Council. Because of the importance of law enforcement to protect victims and respond, investigate and arrest perpetrators, DPS was the logical choice.

The seven-member Council members are Deputy Attorney General Rick Svobodny, AST Col. Audie Holloway, Deputy Commissioners Barbara Thompson (Education) and Bill Hogan (Health and Social Services), and public members Ann House (Juneau), Stephanie McFadden (Anchorage) and Yvonne Sarren (Unalakleet). The Council meets every three months to set policies and priorities. They also determine funding levels for programs.

The Council's statutory mandate is "to reduce the causes and incidence and to alleviate the effects of domestic violence and sexual assault" through prevention, education, and crisis intervention initiatives. To accomplish that goal, the Council funds 19 domestic violence and sexual assault programs for victims around the state, from Ketchikan to Bethel, Barrow to Unalaska and many places in between. The Council also grants approval for selected batterers programs, and provides funding for eight community and prison programs for perpetrators of intimate partner violence. All programs have extensive contact with local law enforcement entities.

In addition to funding community programs, the Council provides funds for law enforcement training provided by DPS's Katie TePas and state Department of Law's training conferences. They also provide funding to the court system and sponsor trainings such as the non-profit Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault's Train the Trainer and Legal Advocacy Project training held in Anchorage in February. The Council also organized an afternoon of training for



From left, Domestic Violence Training Coordinator Katie TePas, Maj. Matt Leveque and study author, Dr. Andre Rosay, listen to AST Col. Audie Holloway speak during a press conference announcing the results of a University of Alaska Anchorage study to measure investigations into sexual abuse and assault in Alaska.

Anchorage municipality prosecuting attorneys regarding domestic violence intervention programs, which featured an acknowledged national expert. Despite his busy schedule, Director of Alaska State Troopers Col. Audie Holloway was able to attend most of the afternoon training.

However, these programs are not enough. As the recent study by the University of Alaska-Anchorage's Justice Center illustrates, sexual abuse and assault is a staggering problem. Alaska has had the nation's highest per capita occurrence since 1995. According to statewide figures for 2003-2004 alone, there were 89 rapes per 100,000 people, almost three times the national average of 32 rapes per 100,000, said Rosay, the Justice Center's interim director.

After a recent period of flux, the Council is currently fully staffed and stable. We believe in the importance of our work, and the impact that services can have not only on individuals, but communities and our society as a whole. Intimate partner violence and sexual assault is a terrible problem, but we feel good knowing that we are making a difference. It is also a pleasure to be a part of such a skillful and talented team put together by Council Executive Director Chris Ashenbrenner to deal with these problems. ■

## HAPPY TRAILS



Peterson

After 31 years working for the State of Alaska, **Kim Peterson** left the Department of Public Safety at the end of June to head down South for an extended vacation with grandchildren. Peterson worked in the Departments of Corrections, Health and Social Services, Revenue, Labor and Workforce Development and the Department of Administration before joining DPS in 2006 as the Special Assistant to the Commissioner.

For two years, Peterson was responsible for labor and bargaining unit issues, dealing with requests for public information and acting as the department's coordinator for Americans with Disabilities Act compliance.

DPS had a retirement party for Peterson on June 24. ■

## Bills, continued from page 11

which was set to expire in fiscal year 2009, the grants would continue until FY 2014.

**SB 185:** Adds email addresses and other electronic identifiers to the list of information our Sex Offender Registry (SOR) collects from convicted sex offenders. It also allows for convicted pedophile perpetrators to wear ankle monitors during their probation/parole times at the discretion of a judge. DPS lead Criminal Records and Identification Bureau Chief Kathy Monfreda.

**SB 196:** Establishes a prescription drug monitoring database on every prescription dispensed for schedule I-V drugs and any controlled substance under state or federal law. The intent for the gathered data is to track dispensing practices and help identify unlawful or unprofessional activity.

**SB 211:** Amends the aggravating factor that the defendant knew that the victim was particularly vulnerable or incapable of resistance, due to ill health, advanced age or other conditions. It adds homelessness to the conditions that may make a person particularly vulnerable or incapable of resistance. ■

# NEWS FROM THE CRIME LAB



**Brown**

**Jennie Brown** joined the staff of the Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory in January 2008 as a Forensic Technician. She has an Associate of Science in Forensic Technology from Grossmont College in San Diego, Calif., as well as a paralegal certificate from the University of San Diego. She previously worked as a litigation

and report dissemination. She is previously from North Dakota and has two children. The position and the duties she performs are essential to the daily operation of the Laboratory.

**Colleen O'Bryant**, a Forensic Scientist in the Breath Alcohol and Toxicology Section, and **Tim Popowski** were married on Dec. 31, 2007 in Brookings, South Dakota. They now live in Palmer where Tim is a football coach and teacher. ■



**Noland**

assistant for various private law firms. Jennie is assigned to the Offender Unit, which was created from provisions of House Bill 90 in 2007. She is the first of several employees who are being hired to tackle the task of decreasing the processing time of convicted offender DNA samples.

**Candy Noland** began working with the Crime Laboratory in February 2008 as an Administrative Clerk III. She previously worked with the Department of Corrections in Anchorage and also as a Certified Optician. Candy fills the vacancy created by the transfer of Caroline Bolar to the Department of Transportation. Her duties are staff support in the areas of time keeping, maintaining the Breath Alcohol Verifications of Calibrations,



**Colleen O'Bryant**, a Forensic Scientist in the Breath Alcohol and Toxicology Section, and **Tim Popowski** were married on Dec. 31, 2007 in Brookings, South Dakota.

## YEARS OF SERVICE



**Jessica Hogan**, a forensic scientist with the DNA/Screening section of the Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory is presented her five years of service certificate by Lab Manager **Orin Dyn**.



**Deputy Commissioner John Glass** presents **Bob Beasley**, an investigator with the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, with his five years of service certificate.

## DRUG RECOGNITION NEWS

BY JEANNE SWARTZ, DRE STATE COORDINATOR

Enriched Standard Field Sobriety Testing instruction (SFST) and impaired driver detection at the DPS Academy gives ALET graduates a jump start on recognition of impaired drivers. B Detachment's **Sgt. Troy Shuey** is one of Alaska's Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) Instructors and passes along his knowledge to ALET students. As a DRE, a DRE Instructor and patrol sergeant, Shuey formulated a plan to provide assistance to the instructors at the ALET Academy to give AST recruits and new officers the tools to recognize drivers impaired by substances other than alcohol from the beginning. With

the support of his commander, **Capt. Dennis Casanovas**, Shuey worked with **Cpl. Tony Wegrzyn**, a DUI instructor at the academy, to supplement the Standardized Field Sobriety Testing training with a four-hour block of training specifically designed to help the ALET students recognize and understand the drug-induced symptoms of impairment. Sgt. Shuey also worked with the ALET students practice SFSTs during the wet lab portion of the instruction and at other times during the week.

Wegrzyn is enthusiastic about the enhanced DUI instruction. As a former B Detachment trooper widely recognized for

his skill in recognizing and investigating DUI cases, Wegrzyn knows first-hand how much a new officer or trooper stands to gain from SFST training at the academy

The enhanced SFST/DUI training is already paying back dividends. Palmer **Trp. Jim Streicher** graduated from the ALET Academy in November 2007. He has already investigated two DUI drugs cases while on FTO. Streicher said the overall quality of training and instruction at the DPS Academy was superior and it was very helpful to his work to understand the signs and symptoms exhibited by drug users right from the start. ■



# DIVISION OF ALASKA STATE TROOPERS



## TROOPERS BRING HOME SHOOT TOP HONORS

BY TRP. BRENT JOHNSON, TOK AWT

Troopers from both the AST and AWT returned from the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual International Law Enforcement Pistol Competition in Whitehorse, Yukon with three trophies, including the team honors for the first time in three years. Fairbanks Judicial Services Supervisor **Sgt. Tim Schoenberg** took the top shooter award and Deputy Director **Maj. John Glick** won the Commissioner's Trophy.

AST fielded a hearty group of six competitors plus two alternates and any willing spouses to travel to reclaim the trophy and a bit of pride from last year. This year's team consisted of myself, **sergeants Schoenberg, Chad Goeden, and Odean Hall** from Fairbanks, **Trp. Nathan "Duck of Death" Duce** from Glennallen, **Trp. Skip Chadwell** from Palmer and **Trp. Shayne Calt** from Talkeetna. The RCMP also fielded a fine group of shooters and, like AST, many returned to continue the battle from the previous year. The event, more commonly known as The Shoot, is the longest running international police handgun competition in the world.

Day one consisted of a practice round followed by a barbecue lunch. After the meal the Tactical competition began. This year's course consisted of firing at targets from inside both sides of a vehicle, one handed fail to stop drills, a small shoot house, a 100 meter dash to shoot at steel targets followed by firing at a number of steel chickens with an MP-5 submachine gun and finally dropping three steel targets with a shotgun. The event is timed and each extra or missed shot brings a five-second penalty.

After a number of competitors had completed the course and laid down respectable times, Hall took the stage for what promised to be an exceptional and memorable run. He blew through the first stages of the course, firing true and quick when he was suddenly and viscously attacked by a wild beast with a dagger like beak and the ability to completely desecrate an 8-by-8 shed in a weekend. I speak of course of what were later referred to as the "(blankity blank) chickens."

Hall is a good shot with any weapon, yet his skills were powerless against the Canadians' trained chicken which, when hit with Hall's first shot, spun sideways to reveal its quarter-inch



Alaska State Troopers and Royal Canadian Mounted Police went head to head in the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual International Law Enforcement Pistol Competition in Whitehorse, Yukon. AST won three of the five contests including the team competition.

wide side profile to Hall. Hall, trained in the arts of war, continued to fire at the evil beast, actually striking the quarter-inch target with a 9 mm bullet, an impressive feat. Still the bird would not fall and Hall was forced to relocate for a better angle. Hall struck the bird yet a third time. Still, it refused to go down, instead spinning back to its original position while I am quite sure, making an obscene gesture. Needless to say, Hall's otherwise perfect performance was now tarnished.

Salvation lay ahead however as Schoenberg was up soon to make everything right with the world. Schoenberg, while obviously leery of the evil chicken, heroically attacked the course with speed and accuracy, nary missing a shot until, yes, the dreaded bird once again struck down one of our top shooters by taking a round and spinning sideways to show its least conspicuous side. Amidst a few groans from Alaskans and some snickers from the other team, Schoenberg continued his assault. Several shots were fired in vain, and I am sure a charge with fixed bayonet was considered as well. Eventually, the demon bird was defeated but again, the trained RCMP chicken had left its mark, ensuring a victory in the tactical portion of the competition by RCMP.

Next up was the SOSO or Significant Other Shoot Off. Our ladies shot well and true, and in some cases, better than their men. However again, Canadian treachery was apparent when it was later discovered one of the RCMP members' wife was also a RCMP member. The ladies took their narrow defeat well and vow revenge next year. At least they didn't need to deal with the chicken!

Eventually all sides retired for the evening to nurse sunburned heads and necks from the 70-degree weather and sunny skies.

Much to our surprise, the morning of the second day welcomed us with 2 inches of snow and the nearly zero visibility from the blizzard the Canadians ordered. Upon arrival at the once picturesque range facilities, every available piece of Gore-Tex was dug out from storage and worn. Little did the Canadians know, this storm would prove to be their downfall. What they forgot when they ordered the blizzard is that all troopers learn to shoot in Sitka where blizzards and snow falling sideways is common.

Mysteriously, some very large feathers began to appear on Hall's and Schoenberg's targets but they resisted the urge to shoot them. The outcome of the day was left in doubt until the awards banquet where it was revealed that our team had captured the day. The margin of victory, out of 6,000 points possible per team, was only four points, making this year's competition the closest ever.

Planning is already underway for next year's event and the team is already soliciting donations of anything chicken related to throw at the Canadian team. ■



Troopers and Mounties on the line during the competition.

## Promotions

Col. Audie Holloway is pleased to announce the promotion of **Lt. Daniel Lowden** of headquarters in Anchorage to captain of Judicial Services in Anchorage effective April 01, 2008.

Lowden began his law enforcement career in June 1972 as a police cadet with the city of Newark, Calif. In January 1973, he joined the U.S. Air Force as a Law Enforcement Specialist. He spent 3-1/2 in the Air Force, stationed in Texas and Alaska.

Lowden joined the Department of Public Safety in May 1978 when he was hired as a Fish and Wildlife Protection Aide prior to going to the Academy in August 1978 as a trooper recruit. His first duty station after the academy was Fairbanks. While stationed in Fairbanks he worked in patrol, commercial vehicle enforcement and Judicial Services. He was a Field Training Officer and a member of the Special Emergency Reaction Team.

Lowden transferred to Delta Junction in April 1982. He was promoted to corporal in December 1987 and assigned as the post supervisor at Delta Junction. In June 1988, Lowden was promoted to sergeant and transferred to Palmer. While stationed at Palmer, Lowden was a shift supervisor, FTO Supervisor, General Investigations Unit Supervisor and the acting Patrol Unit Supervisor.

Lowden transferred to the Commissioner's Office in February 1992. While assigned to the Commissioner's Office, he worked in Planning and Research and as a legislative liaison. Lowden was promoted to Lieutenant in September 1995 and transferred to Anchorage in May 1996.



Col. Audie Holloway congratulates Capt. Dan Lowden on his promotion.

While in Anchorage, Lowden has been assigned as the Administrative Support Unit Commander, Division Operations deputy commander, G Detachment deputy commander, Anchorage Judicial Services Unit supervisor and to the director's staff. Lowden has over six years of experience supervising Judicial Services.

Lowden has an Advanced Alaska Police Standards Council Certificate and is a graduate of the Administrative Officers Course at Southern Police Institute. He has been trained as an instructor in shooting decisions, search and rescue management and law enforcement ethics. ■

Col. Audie Holloway is pleased to announce the promotion of **Sgt. Patrick Davis** to lieutenant, deputy commander of B Detachment effective July 16, 2008.



Davis

Davis began his civilian law enforcement career when he was selected to attend AST recruit class 40 in 1990. Previously, he spent about 4-1/2 years in the Army working as a military police officer.

Following his academy training, Davis was assigned to Palmer Post and spent his first six years in the patrol section. Afterwards, he was assigned to the General Investigations Unit (now known as ABI Mat-Su). Later he was reassigned to patrol as the detachment's domestic violence coordinator.

In 2000, Davis was assigned as a narcotics investigator at what is now called the Mat-Su Narcotics Team, a unit within ABADE. In 2003, Davis was promoted to sergeant and took over as supervisor of that unit.

In 2005, Sergeant Davis was reassigned to B Detachment and has spent the majority of the past three years working in Judicial Services. ■

AST Director Col. Audie Holloway is pleased to announce the selections for promotion of **Trp. Larry Erickson, Inv. Christopher Russell** and **Inv. David Jones** to sergeant.

Erickson is now a shift supervisor at Soldotna Post, E Detachment, effective June 1, 2008.

Erickson started his law enforcement career as a military police officer and military dog handler in the U.S. Marine Corps. Following his honorable discharge, he received an Associate's Degree from the University of Alaska's Kenai Peninsula Community College.

Erickson joined AST in 1993 and was assigned to Soldotna Post. In 1998, he transferred to Bethel Post. In 2000 he transferred to Fairbanks Post where he became a K-9 handler and served as an investigator in the Fairbanks Narcotics Unit of what is now called ABADE. In 2003, Erickson transferred to Soldotna Post.

Erickson has been frequently called on to serve as an FTO, has extensive SERT experience and is a very active Drug and Alcohol Resistance Education Instructor. Erickson recently completed a deployment to the Middle East with the Alaska Air National Guard with whom he is a staff sergeant working in aerial port

operations. Erickson has received multiple awards for valor as a state trooper.

Meanwhile, Russell is supervisor of ABADE's South-East Alaska Narcotics Enforcement Team (SEANET) in Juneau, effective Sept. 1, 2008.

Russell started his career with AST in 2002, and was assigned to Palmer Post. He transferred to the Bethel post in 2005 and initially served in patrol. In 2006, while still in Bethel, he was reassigned to ABADE and has since served as an investigator with the Western Alaska Alcohol and Narcotics Team (WAANT).

Russell has a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Alaska Anchorage and is fluent in Spanish and Russian. He has been cross deputized as a U.S. Postal Service Inspector. Recently, Russell completed a Methods of Instruction course and has been teaching drug and alcohol interdiction at regional VPSO training sessions.

Jones, an investigator with the Intelligence Unit in Anchorage was promoted to sergeant of the unit, effective March 16, 2008.

Jones started his law enforcement career in May of 1972 as a paid commissioned reserve police officer for the North Branch Police Department in Lapeer County, Mich. In July of 1984, he began his career with the

(Sergeants, continued on page 14)

## Successful Bids

Alaska State Trooper Director Col. Audie Holloway is pleased to announce the following successful bidders:

- **Inv. Christopher Long**, from Alaska Bureau of Investigation in Palmer is the successful bidder for Kotzebue in C Detachment AST, effective June 1, 2008.
- **Trp. Edward Nichols** of Fairbanks post in D Detachment AST, is the successful bidder for Cantwell in D Detachment AST, effective June 1, 2008.
- **Trp. Edwin "Neal" Carlson** of Fairbanks post in D Detachment AST, is the successful bidder for Glennallen in B Detachment AST, effective June 1, 2008.
- **Sgt. David Herrell**, of Judicial

AST Director Col. Audie Holloway announced the following lieutenant reassignments:

- **Lt. Randy Hahn** from Palmer in B Detachment to Anchorage Headquarters,

Services in Anchorage is the successful bidder for Palmer/Mat-Su West post in B Detachment AST, effective Sept. 16, 2008.

- **Sgt. Greg Lavin**, from Palmer in B Detachment AWT, is the successful bidder for Bethel in C Detachment AST.
- **CSO Wallace Scott** from Juneau in A Detachment AST is the successful bidder for Palmer in B Detachment AST.
- **Trp. Michael Carpenter**, from Wasilla in B Detachment AST is the successful bidder for McGrath in C Detachment, effective July 1, 2008.
- **Inv. Zachary Huckstep** from Alaska Bureau of Investigation in Fairbanks is

the successful bidder for Ketchikan in A Detachment AST, effective July 1, 2008. ■

### Sergeants, continued from page 13

State of Alaska when he was hired by the Alaska Department of Public Safety (DPS) as a seasonal Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Officer (FWEO). Since that time, he has worked as a trooper in Juneau, Palmer, Hoonah, St. Mary's and before transferring to Anchorage in 1997.

Investigator Jones has worked in investigations, patrol, dive unit, ABADE, Recruitment, and the Alaska Fugitive Task Force, to name a few. He has been assigned to the Intelligence Unit for over five years. ■

## Lieutenant transfers

effective March 3.

- **Lt. Nils Monsen** from Anchorage Judicial Services to Palmer in B Detachment, effective March 3.
- **Lt. Anthony April** from Anchorage

C Detachment to Anchorage Judicial Services, effective March 3.

- **Lt. David Tracy** from Wasilla in B Detachment to C Detachment in Anchorage, effective April 7. ■

## FOND FAREWELLS

### Retirement puts an end to father-daughter duo

Sgt. Dan Donaldson retired after a 21-year career with Alaska State Troopers that included surviving two plane crashes and meeting the president of the United States after saving a child from a burning building in Bethel.

Donaldson was also one-half of the only father-daughter duo in Alaska State Troopers. Michelyn "Mikie" Grigg, is an investigator with Alaska Bureau of Investigation in Palmer. Grigg is one of Donaldson's six children with his wife Jean.

Donaldson first joined AST as a recruit on May 5, 1986, and graduated from Recruit Class No. 39 on Aug. 5, 1986. However, he was laid off one year later due to budget cuts and joined the ranks of the North Slope Police Borough Department. He rejoined AST in 1988 and went through field training in Fairbanks, where he was promoted to a trooper on July 16, 1989. On Jan. 16, 1991, he transferred to Bethel. While working out of Bethel, he rescued a boy from fire at a women's shelter. The act of bravery allowed the former U.S. Marine to be selected as Alaska's Top Cop and honored with other law enforcement representative from around the country to meet



AST Sgt. Dan Donaldson is greeted by his oldest daughter, Amy Donaldson-Brass, who traveled from Utah for his surprise retirement party on May 4. Another of his six children, ABI Inv. Michelyn Grigg, grins in the background.

the president.

Donaldson was promoted to corporal and transferred to Big Lake on Dec. 1, 1994. He received another promotion to sergeant and moved to Soldotna on Sept. 1, 1997. Then, he transferred back to Bethel on July 16, 2000 and acted as the post supervisor and enjoyed flying to the different villages in the area.

As a pilot, Donaldson survived not only

a commuter plane crash while on board as a passenger, but also a crash while flying a state aircraft near the Yukon River.

Donaldson transferred back to Soldotna on Dec. 1, 2003 where he worked until his retirement on April 30, 2008.

His friends, family and coworkers surprised him with a retirement party at in Soldotna on May 4. ■

## Zamora trades trooper blue for deputy brown



Palmer ABI Supervisor Sgt. Craig Allen gives Inv. Bill Zamora a parting gift at a going away party for Zamora in April. After 10 years as an Alaska State Trooper, Zamora resigned to take a position as Sheriff's Deputy at Pend Oreille County in Washington.

When Inv. Bill Zamora wore his AST SERT uniform, it's easy to see how he got his nickname, Cheese Puff.

After over 12 years with the Department of Public Safety, Bill Zamora traded in his trooper blue for deputy brown.

Zamora, who retired in April after a 20-year career with the state, is now wearing the uniform of a Pend Oreille County Sheriff's Deputy in Washington.

Zamora became a state employee first in the Department of Corrections in Ketchikan 1987. He left the state to take a job with the Ketchikan Police Department in 1992. There, he worked for over four years as a patrol officer, a member of the bike patrol team and a firearms instructor. In 1996, he left the police department for the Alaska State Troopers and attended the DPS Academy. He went through

field training in Juneau and was promoted to trooper in January 1997. He wore the brown uniform as a Fish and Wildlife Protection Trooper for over 12 years, first in Juneau with the Marine Patrol Unit before transferring to the Field Patrol Unit in Anchorage in 1999. He transferred to Wildlife Investigations in February 2002. In 2004, he joined the blue shirts as an investigator with the Alaska Bureau of Investigation in Palmer.

During his tenure with the Alaska State Troopers, Zamora was a seasoned investigator, a polygraph examiner, a firearms instructor and a member of the Special Emergency Reaction Team.

A going away party was held in his honor

before Zamora's departure in April where many friends told stories from his career and gave him parting gifts.

"Though we all poked fun at Bill, and we are happy for him and his family, we were nonetheless sorry to have him leave us as we will miss him and the contributions he made to so many of the investigations at ABI," said Sgt. Craig Allen, Zamora's supervisor in Palmer.

Zamora said from Washington: "I am really going to miss Alaska and all the people I have worked with. I have been lucky to have had a diversified career that allowed me to work with a lot of great people and travel all over the state. We had a lot of great times, some hilarious, some scary and some sad." ■

## ANCHORAGE JUDICIAL SERVICES NEWS

BY CSO SEMI SANVIG

Anchorage Judicial Services is awash with changes and new faces. The appointment of **Capt. Daniel Lowden** to organize the formation of a statewide Judicial Services Bureau, the transfer of **Lt. Nils Monsen** and the arrival of **Lt. Anthony "Tony" April**, four new Court Services Officers, two new clerks and one wedding have made for a busy time.

We are happy to see the return of Lowden to Judicial Services. As the commander of the JS Bureau, we will not be able to claim him as our own, but we are happy to see him in our neighborhood. Lowden will have his office in the Boney Courthouse where he will be close to the director of the Alaska Court System and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Lowden said one of his main tasks will be to insure efficient coordination and cooperation between the department and the Court System.

Lowden began his DPS career with the



AST Col. Audie Holloway talks Carl Childers, Daniel Graham, K. Mason Dunn and Neal Malutin after swearing them in as new Court Services Officers.

Department in May 1978. Those 30 years includes time in patrol, commercial vehicle enforcement, SERT, investigations, planning and research, legislative liaison and Judicial Services. He has held posts in Fairbanks, Delta

Junction, Palmer, Juneau and Anchorage. He is well aware of how JS functions and we are looking forward to his leadership.

In March 2008, April replaced Monsen as **(Anchorage JS)**, continued on page 16)

## Anchorage JS, continued from page 15

the Anchorage JS Supervisor when Monsen transferred to the Palmer AST Post. April will serve as deputy commander of the Judicial Services Bureau. April's experience includes patrol, SERT, rural enforcement, DPS Academy instructor and the Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement. He has also been the deputy commander of C Detachment in both Bethel and Anchorage. Previous posts have been Palmer, Bethel, Sitka and Anchorage. This time of dramatic change will allow both Lowden and April to have creative influences on the new Bureau and Anchorage JS.

We would like to welcome new **Court Services Officers Daniel Graham, Carl Childers, Neil Malutin and K. Mason Dunn** to Anchorage JS. The new staff was be up and running by mid-summer.

**Rene Cox** returned to Anchorage JS as an Administrative Clerk II after being gone for 10 months. She had been enjoying babysitting her grand babies, but missed babysitting the JS staff. We are very glad to have her back.

**Vaialae "Vai" Tauanuu** joined us as the new Travel Clerk. Vai came to Alaska in 2006 from American Samoa where she worked for 22 years as an accounting supervisor for Chicken of the Sea International. Her husband, William, is a minister with the Samoan Baptist Church. Vai said she is enjoying Alaska, but noted it's definitely different from Samoa.

Yna Flores is now **Yna LaCanlale** after her marriage to Joe LaCanlale on Jan. 18. They then honeymooned in the Philippines. Her marriage has not softened her harsh treatment of anyone tardy with their payroll. We wish her and her husband our best in their new adventure.

Anchorage JS started a new era when the Anchorage Police Department stopped transporting prisoners from the correctional facilities. For the past many years, APD and AST have cooperated to transport as many as 35,000 plus prisoners per year from the jails to the court. These transports have been accomplished without a major incident. Anchorage JS is now solely responsible for the transport of all prisoners in Anchorage. However, APD will continue to assist at Jail Court Monday through Friday and escort their municipal prisoners to municipal hearings. The staff at JS will miss the close working relationship we have had over



**Capt. Dan Lowden** shows off the gray Court Services Officer shirt he received as a welcome back to the unit gift. Lowden was promoted to captain and appointed to organize the statewide Judicial Services Branch.

these many years with the APD Officers.

APD SWAT staff attended a training session with JS staff on April 23 at the Anchorage Court Complex. The SWAT members were given a tour of all buildings in the complex and badges were inspected to insure they were current. The team conducted multiple scenarios, using the second floor of the Nesbett Courthouse.

Judicial Services assisted the Court with the three day Spring Judicial Conference held at the Captain Cook and Marriott Hotels at the end of April. Most state justices, judges and magistrates attend the conference. This year the Alaska Bar Association held their conference at the same time. JS Officers and Deputy U.S. Marshalls provided security for the state and federal judges attending the event.

On May 1, 2008, at the Marriott Hotel, **CSOs Julie-Dee Sharkey and Ed Appellof** assisted a Federal Magistrate attending the conference when he became ill. The Magistrate declined to have medics called. Instead, he was escorted home by Deputy U.S. Marshalls. ■



Judicial Services Deputy Commander Lt. Tony April presents CSO Thomas Robson his certificate for 10 years of service with the state.



Sgt. Henry Kozloff presents Division Operations Commander Capt. Hans Brinke with a plaque of appreciation for his "hard work and dedication" to Anchorage Judicial Services.

# DPS ACADEMY NEWS

BY LT. JAMES HELGOE, COMMANDER



Alaska Law Enforcement Training Class No. 39

Another class comes to pass at the Department of Public Safety Training Academy. ALET No. 39 consisted of 25 graduates from eight different law enforcement agencies in Alaska. DPS had 10 AST and three AWT recruits in this class. This class graduated June 5, 2008. A special thanks to **DPS Commissioner Walt Monegan, AST Col. Audie Holloway**, University of Alaska Director Jeff Johnston, **Director of Alaska Police Standards Council Terry Vrabec** and Pastor Bob Benton with the Sitka Christian Center.

ALET No. 39 was a good class and it was somewhat sad to see them go. This class had

the highest GPA in recent years with a 92.58 percent. A new academy record was set by **Trooper Recruit Abraham Garcia** who did 169 push-ups. This is a pretty incredible feat.

The last Fitness Challenge for this recruit class culminated with a short 6.8 mile run. The recruits got to stop by McDonalds for some early morning refreshments on the way to the beach. Once at the beach they enjoyed a warm dip in the water to cool off. Every recruit enjoyed themselves and those who couldn't run joined their classmates in the water for some fun.

The fitness challenges, as well as the Surf

and Turf PT session at Sandy Beach, have become an ALET favorite. In recent years every class has heard about and anticipates the Surf and Turf PT session. They all look forward to that day as it marks the final class PT session for the ALET class.

On May 12, four lateral hire state trooper recruits arrived in Sitka to begin a seven-week training program. Each of these lateral hires came to DPS as certified and experienced law enforcement officers. The lateral hires are **Alaska State Trooper Brent Hatch, Alaska Wildlife Trooper Michael Hicks, Alaska State Trooper Travis Meyers** and **Alaska Wildlife Trooper Daniel Valentine**. ■



Academy employees Dawn Barragan won 2007 HQ Civilian of the Year and Cpl. Grant Miller won 2007 HQ Trooper of the Year.



Recruits end their final fitness challenge with a dip in the water.



Recruits make one of their many visits to McDonalds. For some strange reason, the fast food restaurant is always closed.



Mike Leccese, facility manager, receives his 20 year pin & a certificate from AST Deputy Director Maj. Matt Leveque.



Instructors Tony Wegrzyn and his daughter, Ralf Lysdahl and son Parker, and Cornelius "Moose" Sims and daughter Aubree enjoy their first Christmas together.



Sgt. Shane Nicholson receives his 10 year pin and a certificate from Maj. Matt Leveque.

## ALET NO. 39 GRADUATES

### **Timothy Abbott**

Alaska Wildlife Troopers

### **Jordan Abrams**

Alaska Wildlife Troopers

### **Kosta Alexandropoulos**

Bethel Police

### **William Bandy**

Sitka Police

### **Ryan Bowen**

Alaska State Troopers

### **Lee Bruce**

Alaska State Troopers

### **Alexander Chavykin**

Juneau Police

### **Trent Chwialkowski**

Alaska Wildlife Troopers

### **Timothy Cronin**

Alaska State Troopers

### **William Dooley**

Alaska State Troopers

### **Larry Dur'an**

Alaska State Troopers

### **Rory Espy**

Soldotna Police

### **Abraham Garcia**

Alaska Wildlife Troopers

### **Jerrod Goss**

Anchorage Airport Police and Fire

### **Matthew Heckler**

Juneau Police

### **Joseph Hess**

Anchorage Airport Police & Fire

### **Joseph Heynen**

Juneau Police

### **Tonya James**

Juneau Police

### **Duane Leventry**

Alaska State Troopers

### **Justin Milette**

Anchorage Airport Police & Fire

### **Todd Moehring**

Alaska State Troopers

### **Mark Powell**

Anchorage Police Police & Fire

### **John Probst**

Alaska State Troopers

### **Michael Shelley**

Alaska State Troopers

### **John Staley**

Fairbanks Airport Police & Fire



AST Col. Audie Holloway, VPSO John Tobeluk Sr. of Chefornak, VPSO Jim Shavings of Mekoryuk, VPSO Coordinator AST Sgt. Leonard Wallner, VPO Sgt. Nathan Joseph of Hooper Bay, VPSO Christopher Barnett of St. Mary's, VPSO William Peifer of Brevig Mission, DPS Commissioner Walt Monegan and C Detachment Commander Capt. Steve Arlow

## FIVE GRADUATE FROM VPSO PROGRAM

The Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) Program graduated of five cadets from the Department of Public Safety Training Academy on March 14. The ceremony was held at the Sheet'ka Kwaan Naa Kahidi Community House in Sitka. The five graduating cadets were VPSO Christopher Barnett of St. Mary's; Village Police Officer Sgt. Nathan Joseph of Hooper Bay; VPSO William Peifer of Brevig Mission; VPSO Jim Shavings of Mekoryuk; and VPSO John Tobeluk Sr. of Chefornak. Representing agencies were the Alaska Village of Council Presidents located in Bethel, Kawerak Inc. located in Nome, and Hooper Bay Police Department.

VPSO academy classes are conducted only once per year. It is 10 weeks of intense training consisting of both rigorous physical regiment and heavy academic load. In addition to class attendance, each cadet prepares for weekly inspections, sees to their own personal responsibilities, as well as testing every Saturday on classes taught during the previous week.

Specific areas of study include health and fitness, ethics, use of force, rural patrol, holding cell and guard hire procedures, professional police communications, emotionally disturbed

persons, criminal justice overview, community-oriented policing, cross-cultural communication, cold water survival, Oleo Capsicum (OC) spray, baton, taser, defensive tactics, report writing, first aid, criminal code, driving while intoxicated, field sobriety tests, stress management, interview and interrogation, crime scene investigation, physical evidence, search and rescue, search and seizure, firearm awareness, bloodborne pathogens, Title IV, juvenile justice, domestic violence, sexual assault, officer survival, fire service, probation and parole and alcohol and drug interdiction.

The VPSO Program began in the late 1970s as a means of providing rural Alaskan communities with needed public safety services at the local level. It is designed to train and employ individuals residing within the village as first responders to public safety emergencies such as search and rescue, fire protection, emergency medical assistance, crime prevention, and basic law enforcement. The presence of these officers has had a significant impact upon improving the quality of life in participating villages. As a result, VPSO's are generally the first to respond to calls for help from members of the community, hence their motto "First Responders, Last Frontier." ■

# ZITO AWARDED MEDAL OF VALOR

Trp. Nick Zito was awarded the Medal of Valor for his valiant actions in 2004 to protect the life of a fellow law enforcement officer. Zito was a Fairbanks International Airport and Fire Officer conducting field training with a recruit in Fairbanks the early morning of Dec. 23, 2004 when the event occurred.

The incident began when Zito and the recruit he was training attempted to stop a 1994 Mazda pickup truck for a defective tail light. When the driver didn't stop, the officers pursued the driver down the Johansen Expressway.

Fairbanks Police Department Sgt. Jim Geier responded to assist the airport officers in stopping the driver. The pursuit was conducted in a cautious manner, and eventually ended up on the Old Steese Highway where the officers terminated the pursuit due to concerns about the public's safety. Shortly afterwards, the truck was located by police stuck in the snow near Curry's Corner. Officers then looked for the driver who had fled the vehicle.

While Zito, his trainee and Geier were checking the area, the suspect opened fire on Geier with a handgun. Geier was struck three times, taking bullets to the chest, gun belt and leg. Zito saw where the shots came from and returned fire, striking the suspect in the chest. Despite efforts to revive him, the suspect was pronounced dead on scene. The suspect was later discovered to have both felony drug and weapon convictions out of Minnesota.

Geier eventually recovered from the bullet wound to his leg.

Zito is credited with acting calmly and courageously during



**From left, Fairbanks International Airport Police and Fire Chief Mike Supkis, Medal of Valor recipient Trp. Nick Zito and D Detachment Deputy Commanders Lt. Lonny Piscoya and Lt. Ron Wall after Zito's award ceremony at the airport police department in May.**

the most serious situation a police officer can face. Zito's actions ensured the confrontation was quickly brought to an end, enabling Geier to receive immediate medical attention.

Zito was awarded the Medal of Valor during a ceremony at the Fairbanks International Airport and Fire Department in May 2008. He joined the ranks of Alaska State Troopers as a lateral hire in 2006. He is now based in Kodiak. ■

## ALASKA STATE TROOPER CHAPLAINCY ESTABLISHED



**Chaplains Debra and Boyd Waltman**

A volunteer non-denominational Alaska State Trooper Chaplaincy was recently established by AST Chaplains Boyd and Debra Waltman and approved by AST Col. Audie Holloway. The goal of the AST Chaplaincy is to place chaplains in Bush hubs to serve the state troopers and their families, as well as the communities. Additionally, AST chaplains will welcome home returning veterans and assist them in anyway needed. The AST Volunteer Chaplaincy will also work with other chaplaincies, churches and denominations. They are available to all Department of Public Safety employees and their families.

Boyd and Debra are members of the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation. New chaplains will also attend training in Critical Incident Stress Debriefing to enable them to serve in the Bush if a critical incident would occur.

To date, AST chaplains have been approved and are in Bethel, Dutch Harbor, Fairbanks and the Mat-Su Valley with others coming on board to serve in other Bush hubs.

Boyd and Debra are ordained and licensed, non-denominational ministers and have been chaplains since 1996. They have served the State Troopers since 2002. The volunteer chaplaincy is part of the Waltman's non-profit ministry, Northern Lights Ministries, Inc., and adheres to the advisement of AST.

"We want chaplains who have a heart for our hard-working State Troopers and their families and who have a desire to serve them when needs arise, as well as to the communities in Alaska," said the Waltmans. ■

# ALASKA BUREAU OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG ENFORCEMENT

On Jan. 10, the Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement aided by various state, municipal and federal law enforcement agencies served four search warrants at the end of a five-month investigation into a drug trafficking ring between the Kenai Peninsula and Anchorage.

The Soldotna trooper patrol, Soldotna Alaska Wildlife Troopers, Anchorage Police Department Patrol, Soldotna Police, Kenai Police Department, Anchorage Metro Unit, Kenai Adult Probation, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Drug Enforcement Agency and the U.S. Marshals' Fugitive Task Force came together to simultaneously serve two search warrants in Anchorage, one in Soldotna and one in Sterling.

At a residence in Anchorage, investigators contacted and arrested a 46-year-old woman on charges stemming from a total of \$36,000 in outstanding warrants. Cocaine residue and packaging material were seized during the service of the search warrant at this residence.

At another Anchorage residence, investigators seized an AK-47 with a drum magazine and imitation crack cocaine that was being sold as actual cocaine.

The search warrant issued at a Soldotna residence yielded the arrest of two 47-year-old men. Both were contacted at the residence and arrested on charges of third-



**Guns and money were seized in various places at the end of a five-month investigation into a drug trafficking ring between the Kenai Peninsula and Anchorage.**

degree misconduct of a controlled substance. One of the men was also remanded on a felony probation violation.

Found during the search warrant service was approximately \$43,000 in cash, approximately 9 ounces of cocaine, three weapons and various drug paraphernalia.

The fourth search warrant served was on a residence in Sterling. There, investigators arrested a 35-year-old man.

Investigators discovered the residence had fortified doors, an alarm system, security cameras and monitors. Additionally, the suspect had two loaded 12-gauge shotguns, a .45 caliber handgun and flak jacket nearby when investigators entered the residence.

Investigators seized \$18,218 in cash, 44 firearms, small quantities of methamphetamine, Methadone, Xanax and 37 hits of suspected LSD.

All arrests were made without incident. ■

## 2007 Awards



**Capt. Keith Mallard presents Criminal Justice Technician Patty Busby with the 2007 Civilian of the Year award.**



**WAANT Inv. Charlie Cross is awarded the 2007 Trooper of the Year.**



**Accounting Clerk Jane Bennett is presented an Honorable Service Award. Other ABADE members who were given 2007 awards were Inv. Rick Pawlak and his canine partner, Custa (Honorable Service); Mat-Su Narcotics Team Inv. Kyle Young (Honorable Service); WAANT Inv. Chris Russell (Honorable Service); SEANET Supervisor Tim Birt (Honorable Service); Major Offenders Unit Inv. Gordon Bittner (Honorable Service); and Juneau Police Department Clerk Stacey Eldemar (Honorable Service).**

# ALASKA BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

It's a dirty job ...



**From bottom, going clockwise, Fairbanks ABI Investigators Yvonne Howell, Mark Eldridge Crime Scene Technician Kathi Young and Sgt. Jeremy Rupe sift through maggots at the scene of a death investigation near Fairbanks in May.**

## On the Move



**Inv. Ron Monigold holds a plaque he was given before he left the Fairbanks ABI for Bethel in February.**



**Sgt. Jeremy Rupe presents plaques to Inv. Toma Caldarea and Inv. Sherry Ferno, both of Fairbanks ABI. Ferno transferred to Palmer ABI and Caldarea transferred to Soldotna ABI.**



# DETACHMENT DISPATCH: News From Around the State A DETACHMENT NEWS



Trp. Recruit Jack LeBlanc entertains a local Boy Scout Troop in Ketchikan

During a tour of the Ketchikan Post Trooper Recruit Jack LeBlanc entertained a local Boy Scout troop. LeBlanc gave them a guided tour, answered questions, fingerprinted them, let them run the patrol car lights and even let a few do time checks on the radio.

The sight of her son on the radio was enough to make one proud mother start to cry.

Radio Dispatcher II Mary Brown put together souvenir bags, including safety bears, for the group. All the kids had a great time and were very appreciative.

Welcome back to Jodi Williams, Ketchikan Post Radio Dispatcher II. Jodi resigned in October, but decided four months vacation was enough and returned to the dispatch helm on March 10. ■



AWT Sgt. Steve Hall's son, Sam, can hardly wait to become a trooper. His grandmother made the uniform for him.



For a birthday gift, RDII Rich Nowand receives essential items needed after turning the big 40 like adult diapers and Metamucil.



Trp. Jack LeBlanc participates in the Ketchikan Torch Run in May. LeBlanc won the race by a mile.



Capt. Kurt Ludwig congratulates Trp. Jack LeBlanc for successfully completing the FTO program.



RDII Tina Wood is presented with the 2006 A Detachment Civilian of the year letter and plaque by Detachment Commander Capt. Kurt Ludwig.



Trp. Bob Claus, Klawock AST, receives a retirement plaque and congratulations from Capt. Kurt Ludwig. Thank you for your many years of service to the citizens of Alaska.

# B DETACHMENT NEWS

## Comings and goings

B Detachment bid farewell to several employees moving on to new locations:

- **Lt. Randal Hahn** transferred to Anchorage Director’s Office March 3.
  - **Lt. David Tracy** transferred to Anchorage C Detachment April 7.
  - **Tpr. Eric Hinton** transferred to Dutch Harbor AWT May 1.
  - **Tpr. Mike Peltier** transferred to Glennallen AWT May 1.
  - **Tpr. Amy Bowen** transferred to Palmer ABI May 1.
  - **Tpr. Luis Nieves** transferred to Palmer ABI April 1.
  - **Tpr. Brandon Viator** resigned employment with the state of Alaska to travel with his wife in her military career. He departed April 30.
  - **Tpr. Joshua Trigg** completed his Field Training in April and transferred to his new duty station located in Bethel.
  - **Tpr. Michael Carpenter** transferred to McGrath July 1.
  - **Tpr. Robert Lawson** transferred to Palmer ABI June 1.
- The Detachment also welcomed several new faces.
- **Lt. Nils Monsen**, who transferred from Anchorage Judicial Services to Palmer AST on March 3.
  - **Tpr. Neil Carlson**, who arrived at Glennallen AST on June 1.
- And congratulations to **Sgt. Patrick Davis**, who was promoted to lieutenant July 16. He’s now the detachment deputy commander stationed the Mat-Su West Post. ■



## Can you see me now?

BY BELINDA BOHANAN

A B Detachment Trooper thought he had seen everything.

On a dark, cold February morning on Church Road in Wasilla, this particular trooper observed a driver that couldn’t possibly see the road and it wasn’t because of white out weather. As you can see, all sides were covered in snow. It’s amazing what people don’t do in the morning before they leave for work. When the trooper made contact with the driver he didn’t even have an excuse. The driver was headed for Eagle River and must have thought it would blow off on its own, but he never made it that far. After the \$70 citation and two points the driver wishes he would have spent \$4 on a broom and taken two minutes on snow removal instead of waiting in line to buy his latte.

I wonder if he can see clearly now? ■

## POLAR PLUNGE



Lt. Randy Hahn participated in the Mat-Su Polar Plunge for charity in January. Hahn, who always thought that folks who jumped into frozen lakes and rivers were somewhat crazy, said the air temperature was in the low 20’s and the water was about 33 degrees, making it warmer in the water than it was standing outside. That is, until after he got wet. He even managed to keep his Stetson on during the plunge.

# Glennallen News

BY JANE FLYGSTAD AND TRP. JOSH HEINBAUGH



Trp. Josh Heinbaugh's D.A.R.E. class from Kenny Lake School graduated with flying colors on Feb. 20.

Back in the short cold days of December, we livened things up a bit at the Glennallen Post by hosting a holiday gathering with all of our emergency jail guards, court employees and other area enforcement agencies. We all enjoyed spreading some holiday cheer and saying thank you to those in the community that help us get the job done. On Christmas Eve, we got an unusual request to escort Santa and his reindeer to the Kluti-Kaah Head start Center in Copper Center. **Alaska Wildlife Trooper Jon Simeon** was happy to oblige.

January brought the annual Copper Basin 300 Sled Dog race to Glennallen and along with it a slew of mushers and race volunteers. Our troopers put in some traffic patrol overtime to ensure that the area roads stayed safe for everyone, and happily there were no race related accidents or mishaps.

Also in January, **Rachel Gernat** of the Palmer District Attorney's office was in Glennallen for two weeks prosecuting Micah Beshaw for kidnapping and attempted sexual assault. The jury found the defendant guilty of all charges. Sentencing is scheduled for June.

On Feb. 20, **Trp. Josh Heinbaugh's** D.A.R.E. class from Kenny Lake School graduated with flying colors. The sixth-grade class included Sam Ankrum-Edwards, Sam Carlson, Joan Davis, Hannah James, Mariah Lenard, Wyatt Miller, Rebecca Morgan, Felicity Roe, Abbie Schierholt, Michael Swisher, Hazel Underwood, Steven Wilson and Tessa Wygant.



VPSO Jan Miller, on left, is assigned to Gakona and Gulkana and VPSO Ava Greybear is assigned to Copper Center and Tazlina.

**Lt. Randy Hahn** and Heinbaugh attended the graduation and reception following.

Then in March, all 12 of the fourth graders from the Glennallen Elementary school graduated from the D.A.R.E. program with Heinbaugh.

Two new VPSO's have been assigned to the four native villages in the Glennallen enforcement area. A cooperation between DPS and Copper River Native Association has made this possible. **VPSO Ava Greybear** has been assigned to the native villages of Copper Center and Tazlina. **VPSO Jan Miller** has been assigned to native villages Gakona and Gulkana. The program is a work in progress and comes with challenges but is beneficial to AST, residents of the villages and the entire community.

Glennallen AST hosted a booth at the annual Lions Club Health Fair at the new Glennallen Elementary school. **ACIII Jane Flygstad** and VPSO's Greybear and Miller manned the booth and enjoyed meeting community members, answering questions and giving out trigger locks to promote gun safety.

Also in May, **Sgt. Duane Stone, Trp. Nathan Duce** and VPSO Greybear attended Annual Copper Center School Track and Field Days.

Stone and Duce have been involved with local business owners and other agencies developing a Crime Stopper's program for the Copper Basin. ■



Sgt. Patrick Davis holds 5-month-old Dante Edwards after commissioning Edwards' foster brother, Special Olympian Devin Helmick, as a junior trooper.



Trooper Recruit Jim Streicher explains height restrictions to a driver of a vehicle lifted too high. The driver just pulled the truck out of the shop with the new lift and was on his way to show his mom.

## WINNING ISN'T EVERYTHING: A TROOPER BASKETBALL STORY

BY LT. DAVID TRACY,

The Mat-Su Valley is one of the urban centers of the AST universe. It includes a large patrol component, Wildlife Troopers, ABI Investigators, ABADe Investigators and even folks from DPS Headquarters that live in the Valley and commute daily to Anchorage. The Valley is one of the fastest growing regions in the state. Along with that growth comes an incredible workload for local troopers. With everybody busy at work and usually working all hours of the day and night, there was a notable deficit of any morale building recreational activities. A number of troops decided it would be fun to put together a trooper basketball team for the local winter league. The idea sounded good to me at the time.

I have been involved with many successful "Trooper" teams in the past. I pretty much own the driveway basketball court, usually against my teenage son. With all that going for us a team was gathered and we plunked down the registration fee for the Mat-Su Basketball Association.

Joining the team were the following Troops: Ronny Simmons, AST Patrol; Hans Brinke, AST Director's Office; Glenn Charles, AWT; Michelyn Grigg, ABI; Jesse Darby, AST Patrol; Steve Kevan, AST DUI Team; Bill Zamora, ABI; Brandon Viator, AST Patrol; Dave Tracy, AST Patrol; Dan Gunderson, AWT; Jordan Chadwell, son of AST Patrol; Robert Lawson, AST Patrol; and Ryan Tracy, son of AST Patrol.

It is probably safe to say that we had the first co-ed basketball team in the history of the local men's league. We were also matching up against teams that have played and practiced together for years. None of these disclaimers are excuses, just facts, and you know how we love facts. To this day I believe that we were set up for our first game. We were matched up against the Job Corps, a team of young men from rural Alaska that grew up dribbling basketballs 24/7. Not only were they skilled, but they all ran like gazelles. Unfortunately, we were somewhat lacking in both categories. At least they were fairly polite as they ran us out of the gym, winning by a 20-something margin.

We came out of the first game with a



The Trooper Basketball team, or as it was for that night, includes Mat-Su West Trp. Brandon Viator; Palmer Trp. Jesse Darby; Mat-Su West Trp. Ronny Simmons; B Detachment Deputy Commander Lt. Dave Tracy and Jordan Chadwell, a Palmer High School teacher and son of Palmer trooper Skip Chadwell.

renewed focus on our priorities, which were breaking a sweat and having as much fun as possible. Our team continued – playing once a week throughout the winter.

Unfortunately, injuries and trooper schedules started to play a role, which impacted our roster. Near the end we were lucky to field a group of five to run the court. The season ended fittingly with the second loss in the double elimination tournament – playing with four players.

Despite our record, I think we all had fun. It was a diverse mix of people that came out and got to interact outside of the workplace. I believe that these trooper teams are morale builders and well worth the energy.

I want to recognize and thank the Fraternal Order of Alaska State Troopers. FOAST sponsored our team and their support with these endeavors is invaluable.

I look forward to participating in future Trooper teams, although I may decide on something more middle-aged body friendly next time, like ice hockey. Oh, and I think I will keep the fact the we are troopers on the down low next time – maybe if we call ourselves The Firemen we will get more calls from the referees. Everybody likes firemen. ■



Jordan Chadwell, son of Palmer Trooper Skip Chadwell, lays it in while troopers Jesse Darby, middle, and Ronny Simmons wait to see if there's a rebound.

### PATROLING THE KNIK RIVER PUBLIC USE AREA



Trp. Daron Cooper supervises while young adults cleaned up their brass casings after he advised them of no shooting in the area due to the high volume of ATV enthusiasts in the Jim Creek area.

### 2007 AWARDS

On July 8, 2008, at a ceremony at the Mat-Su West Post, B Detachment recognized the outstanding efforts of several of employees for their efforts during 2007.

- **Alissa Noe**, Administrative Clerk of Palmer Judicial Services - 2007 B Detachment Civilian Employee of the Year
- **Trp. Ronny Simmons** of Mat-Su West Post Patrol – 2007 B Detachment Trooper of the Year
- **Sgt. Kid Chan** of Palmer Post Patrol – Commendation for Honorable Service
- **Trooper Jacob Covey** of Talkeetna Post – Letter of Commendation
- **Jill Veloske-Bybee**, Administrative Clerk of Mat-Su West Post – Letter of Commendation. She was unable to attend the July ceremony, but received her well-deserved award later. ■

### SOLDIER THANKED FOR HELPING MAKE ROADS SAFER

BY TRP. STEVE KEVAN

On Feb. 5, **Trp. Steven Kevan** presented a Letter of Appreciation to soldier Alena Katzenberger for a job well done. He presented this letter, along with a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Alaska State Trooper challenge coin, to Alena in front of 60 of her fellow service members on Fort Richardson.

Alena was recognized for her actions on the night of Jan. 11, 2008.

That night, Alena stopped to provide first aid at a motor vehicle collision on the Parks Highway near Museum Drive in Wasilla. She provided transportation for a female who she initially believed was in danger. Shortly thereafter, Alena noticed the female was intoxicated, had slurred speech and wanted to be dropped off in the middle of the road with outside temperatures below zero and minimal protective clothing. As Alena talked with her, she was able to get valuable information confirming the female subject was the driver of the vehicle and that she, in fact, had been consuming alcohol.

She then observed and noticed an Alaska State Trooper patrol vehicle responding to the scene of the crash and made several attempts to get the trooper’s attention. When the trooper stopped Alena’s vehicle, she quickly identified herself and provided vital information about the incident. The Trooper then took custody of the female and was able to continue with an investigation. This female was subsequently arrested for Felony DUI, Felony Refusal, Driving with a Revoked License, and Failure to Report a Motor Vehicle Collision Immediately.

Alena’s conduct was impressive in this situation and the way she handled the female who was later arrested. It is amazing that Alena is only 19-years old and her performance was indicative of an adult, many years her senior.

Alena has an infectious, positive, can-do attitude which can allow her to accomplish most anything she is aspired to do. Her personality, demeanor and the command presence that she projects are remarkable. We are grateful she is a member of our United States Armed Forces.

On behalf of the Alaska State Troopers, it is with great regard that Alena received recognition through letter of appreciation for a job well done. Her actions have benefited this community as well as making our roads a safer place to travel. ■



Trp. Steven Kevan presents a Letter of Appreciation for a job well done to soldier Alena Katzenberger in front of 60 of her fellow service members on Fort Richardson.

### Trooper, whaddya mean I can’t ride on this path?



Motorcyclists use questionable judgment by parking their bikes on and around the “No Motorized Vehicles” sign in front of them while riding in the Butte on June 7.

# C DETACHMENT NEWS

BY REBECCA ROENFANZ  
(DILLINGHAM)  
AND SGT. MAURICE "MO" HUGHES  
(KODIAK)

Last winter was an exciting one for C Detachment. Thanks to grant money, troopers received snow machines, four wheelers, snow gear and various other items to help fight evil and protect the innocent. I do believe former Deputy Detachment Commander **Lt. Tony April** memorized the shoe size and measurement of every trooper in C Detachment.

Along with all this spending goes the responsibility of tracking it. **Karin Sullivan**, with help from **Katherine Chanhthathap** and **Jeanette Spofford** in Anchorage, had a hectic holiday season while they reconciled purchases and travel receipts. All of this while dealing with switching to new credits cards, and the cherry to top it all, new gas cards. Frustrating as it was for the troopers in the field trying to stay on top of turning in those Travel Authorizations and finding a gas station to accept their new cards, these ladies had a mess to untangle when it all arrived in Anchorage. Big thanks go out to them for all their efforts to keep every penny spent accounted for.

Detachment Commander **Capt. Steve Arlow** was generous enough to invite the clerks from the various C Detachment Posts to Anchorage for a Clerk's Conference. Sullivan organized the event and made certain the clerks were quite welcome. Able to attend were **Diane Johnson** (Bethel Post), **Susan Luchsinger** (Aniak), **Samantha Autry** (Kotzebue Post), **Kimberly Adams** (Nome Post) and **Rebecca Roenfanz** (Dillingham). They had one day with Karin, who enlightened them about some of the more mysterious tasks they are meant to complete, and two days APSIN training with **Lisa Purinton**. As an added bonus, **Dean Barnes** joined them our second day of APSIN training and introduced the clerks to the New APSIN and some of its features. It was time well spent away from their desks and it gave the clerks a chance to finally meet each other and establish useful connections.

## DILLINGHAM NEWS

The Dillingham post is proud to



Those who attended the C Detachment Clerk Conference include; seated in the front, **Diane Johnson** (Bethel Post), **Samantha Autry** (Kotzebue Post), seated in the back **Dean Barnes** (APSIN Programmer), **Susan Luchsinger** (Aniak Post), standing in back **Jeanette Spofford** (Anchorage, C Det)



**Trp Jason Fieser** (left) and **Travis Roenfanz** work on freeing Fieser's snow machine from the ice that built up around it when they returned to Dillingham to get more supplies so they could free it.



**Illimna Trp. Vanessa Meade** is the masked trooper in this photo taken at Six Mile Lake on Jan. 14.

welcome a couple of new additions to the Bristol Bay Area. **Trp. Vanessa Meade** began working at the Iliamna post in November. In January, she felt the need for a quest and left to visit the land of the Kiwis, New Zealand. Upon her return she was happy to announce she had cast the ring into the fiery pit of Mount Doom, as well as attended a concert and watched a couple of movies in an outdoor, traveling theatre. She returned refreshed and ready to attend to the newly arrived prisoner holding facility. She is now able to perform her duties as a trooper in style. With her new snowmachine, it is easier for her to access the nearby village of Newhalen and with the prisoner holding area she doesn't have to worry about coordinating

## Merrill bags 66-1/2 inch moose



**Nome Sgt. Andrew Merrill** and **Mike Culley** with the 66-1/2 inch rack from the moose Merrill shot in January.

**Sgt. Andrew Merrill** got his first moose while hunting in a special moose opening near Nome in January. He and **Matt Culley**, husband of **Trp. Honi Culley**, went out about 25 miles to Cripple Creek and saw about 20 moose. Merrill shot the closest one, standing only about 100 yards away.

"He was good sized and cooperated perfectly," Merrill said. "He ran right out into an open spot after the first shot and dropped for us so we could drive right up to him."

Merrill said the 66-1/2 inch spread is "awesome for this area."

Merrill enjoyed a bit of celebrity status after word of his successful hunt spread around Nome.

The rack sat out on his front desk. Strangers driving by asked to look at it. ■

transports to King Salmon in the middle of snow storms.

In the spring, Meade was busy keeping the peace in the various villages surrounding Iliamna. She was given some relief. She had the honor of welcoming **VPSO David Eneyuk** to Newhalen. VPSO Eneyuk served as a VPO in New Stuyahok and made the transition in late April to VPSO status. Meade has the unique opportunity of sharing an office with VPSO Eneyuk and is looking forward to having the ability to mentor on a daily basis.

**Trp. Dan Blizzard** and his family arrived to King Salmon in January. They showed up to their housing in just enough

(C Detachment, continued on page 27)

C Det., continued from page 26



Trp. Jason Fieser, searching for biological evidence with a crime scene light at a mock crime scene.

time to prevent all the water pipes from freezing. Once they established heat, they were able to set up house. Blizzard's wife, Trishta, settled in quite nicely and is in full swing with her scrap booking. She has been giving classes to some of the local ladies and is even a consultant for the supplies. If you are in the King Salmon area and have the need for some fancy papers or paper punches she is the lady to see. Joel, one of two sons, is eight and attending school and Noah is toddling around at age two and keeping mommy busy during the day.

**Trp. Marc Hendrickson** had a Cessna 172 delivered to him in January from the State Aircraft Section. He and Blizzard used the plane to visit several villages and continue to renew the villager's faith in the troopers. They were able to offer assistance during carnivals, conduct interviews and serve various court documents. Hendrickson returned the plane in May to the Aircraft Section so they could allow another trooper to build up flying hours. Not only is the King Salmon post losing the convenience of the airplane, but Hendrickson transferred to Fairbanks this fall, trading in his blue shirt for a brown one.

**Sgt. Randel McPherron** put together the tools needed for a crime scene investigations taught in spring. VPSO coordinator and former ABI investigator, **Sgt. Leonard Wallner**, assisted him as McPherron took his show on the road throughout C Detachment.

**Trp. Dave Bump** flew to Soldotna to take his pilot's license test. He returned after being gone for most of July with a smile on his face and new card to carry in his wallet. Congratulations go out to him for passing his test and becoming an official flyboy.



CSI CLASS IN DILLINGHAM- Front row: VPSO Cpl. Byron Wise of Pilot Point; VPSO Evan Wonhola of New Stuyahok; VPSO Sgt. Gusty Tunguing Jr. of Koliganek; VPSO Cpl. Melvin Andrew of Manokotak; Trp. Henry Ching of Bethel; and Trp. Vanessa Meade of Illiamna. Back row: Instructor Jim Wolfe; VPSO David Eneyuk of Newhalen; VPSO Sgt. Jason Creasey of Aleknagik; Trp. Daniel Sadloske of Dillingham; VPSO Cpl. Guy Ashby of Chignik; Trp. Daniel Blizzard of King Salmon; Sgt. Teague Widmier of Bethel; Trp. Jason Fieser of Dillingham; and VPSO Sgt. Daniel Decker of Ekwok.

**Trp. Daniel Sadloske** managed to sneak in a cruise to Tahiti with his wife. They both came back tan and happy.

Baby Kodiak has been keeping **Trp. Jason Fieser** and his wife busy, but not too busy to keep dad from going snow machining. Fieser was able to put to use the Learn to Return skills he received this winter when he stopped his snow machine on a creek and broke through the ice. He wasn't able to get the machine out before it went under, but was able to shut it down. His riding companion and he managed to pull the engine up and out of the water. They returned the following day with the needed tools to pull it out the water hole and tow it back to Dillingham. Fieser

is thinking about starting a tow service for snow machines. He thinks he has the technique down.

The troopers in the Bristol Bay Area found themselves busy with training in the spring. There was a Crime Scene Investigation, Sexual Assault Response Team and Cultural Awareness class to attend, all the while maintaining their daily activities at their assigned posts. Blizzard gets the award for most time spent away from home for the month April.

**Sgt. Perry Barr** and **Sgt. Andrew Merrill** graced Dillingham with their presence for the Cultural Awareness and VPSO Mentoring class held in late April.

(C Detachment, continued on page 28)



Villagers attend the ribbon cutting ceremony for a new public safety building in Kwethluk dedicated to long-time Village Public Safety Officer Sgt. Max Olick. AST Director Col. Audie Holloway, VPSO Training Coordinator Sgt. Leonard Wallner, Bethel-based Sgt. Teague Widmier and Trp. Perry Barr and State Pilot Earl Samuelson also attended a ribbon cutting ceremony.

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They taught attendees to respect each other's cultures and had some help from Father Michael Oleska. Even though Barr and Merrill were in Dillingham to teach, they themselves learned something. They were taught how to properly execute a "Dillingham drive by" to ascertain if a restaurant was open for business. Merrill showed great form while he leaned back in the driver's seat and had his left hand draped over the steering wheel. His wingman Barr performed the duties as look out with the greatest of ease.

It wasn't just the troopers staying busy in Dillingham. Pam Sadloske, **Trp. Dan Sadloske's** wife, took over the duties as disc jockey for the infamous Open Line on the local radio station. She handles her duties with gracefulness as she hovers over the mute button anticipating any inappropriateness. She has been welcomed by many and has been given several opportunities to learn Yupik. Pam has some big shoes to fill and has been doing an excellent job. Keep up the good work!

### KOTZEBUE NEWS

The Kotzebue post kept busy dealing with snow storms and adventurous travelers. There is nothing like searching for overdue snowmachiners while the weather is blowing outside. It is a good thing **Sgt. Karl Main** has been practicing his Learn to Return skills as well. In between snow storms, he built a snow cave for his kids and **AWT Eric Lorrington's** children to play in.

Main and **Trp. Ben Mank**, were featured in the History Channel's "Tougher In Alaska" series episode about Alaska State Troopers. In the show, Main eloquently kicks in a door of a house to reach a suspect in a village. The Public Information Office has copies of the show and is working on getting Main to autograph a few.

**Trp. Chris Long** transferred to Kotzebue this summer, months after Mank and **Trp. Aaron Meyers**, taking over as fresh meat from the Valley.

**Trp. Terry Shepherd** managed to escape the storms of Kotzebue for a few weeks to the warm weather of Bali. Was he able to learn any pointers from the local police on how they manage to prevent the sale of drugs? From many accounts, their drug laws are strict and the locals are more than willing to assist



**Trp. Terry Shepherd** checks out a Kobuk River camp set up by people looking for the body of a man who broke through the river ice in the winter. Shepherd and **Sgt. Karl Main** made the trip from Kotzebue to the camp this summer.

the authorities in catching violators. Fines can cost a person \$60,000 US and upwards plus jail time. I am guessing Shepherd stuck to the beaches and discos and saved the working for Kotzebue.

The Kotzebue post said goodbye to their clerk, **Samantha Autry**. She headed south to warmer weather and consistent sunshine year around. I am sure the Troopers in Kotzebue will miss the collectibles she kept on her desk.

### NOME NEWS

The Nome post hired **Kimberly Grimmer** as a clerk. She officially started working in December but, was able to come into Anchorage in November for the Clerk's Conference. She gets the unique opportunity of working along side **Gloria Karmun** who has been a clerk with troopers now since Wally Hickel was governor. That is 14 years ago for those of us who will have to Google that tidbit. Kimberly has been tasked with maintaining the integrity of the evidence stored at the post. She has been keeping herself busy and learning the secret joy of



Alaska State Troopers at the Kodiak post helped with rescue efforts after a Piper PA-31 crashed approximately 300 yards off shore from the airport in January.

destroying evidence.

The Nome Post had the great honor of hosting the Sergeants' Conference in February. It sounds like the sergeants did a lot of work while they were gathered. The detachment should benefit from the ideas formed during their time together.

### UNALAKLEET NEWS

Last but not least, the Unalakleet post had the honor of being the first village on the coast reached by the Iditarod mushers. **Troopers Karl Erickson and George Kammer** were busy making sure there were no speeding dog sled teams on the streets of Unalakleet. When Kammer isn't working hard, he coaches the Wolfpack, the middle school's basketball team. Erickson's son Donald is a member of basketball team and is hard to miss because he is "the biggest kid on the team." Erickson's wife, Karen, doesn't have much free time to spend watching the games because she's busy with her coffee house called Kuupiaq House Espresso and Bakery. It sounds delicious and the next time you are in Unalakleet you will know where to stop and get a good cup of coffee and maybe even a donut or two.

### KODIAK NEWS

Tragedy struck Kodiak in the beginning of 2008 with an airplane accident and a fishing vessel accident during the months of January and February that claimed a total of seven lives.

The investigation into the Jan. 5 airplane accident that claimed six lives began when the FAA Tower called 911 at 1:42 p.m. to report a plane had crashed approximately 300 yards off shore from the Kodiak State Airport.

The Piper PA-31 Navajo, operated by Servant Air and carrying nine passengers chartered to Homer, radioed the control tower

(C Detachment, continued on page 29)



Capt. Steve Arlow, right, presents Sgt. Maurice "Mo" Hughes with a Meritorious Service award for his involvement in the rescue and recovery of the plane crash.

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# Snapshots from Western Alaska



A U.S. Coast Guard tries to rescue two individuals trapped inside an overturned boat washed up near a residential area on Kodiak Island. One man was saved while the skipper died in the incident.

advising there was trouble and the pilot was attempting to return to the Kodiak State Airport. Shortly after that transmission, the Piper Navajo took a nosedive into the water, killing five passengers and taking the life of a well known pilot from Kodiak.

Another pilot from Andrew Airways, flying a floatplane in a nearby area responded to the scene and assisted the four surviving passengers into his plane, bringing them to emergency personnel before they were transported to the hospital.

The incredibly fast response from both on- and off-duty Kodiak Alaska State Troopers and Kodiak Alaska Wildlife Troopers included land assistance and water assistance from P/V Ethics and P/V Cama'i. Kodiak Post Troopers worked with U.S. Coast Guard fire personnel, Integrated Support Command and the Air Station MH-60 Jayhawk Helicopter were involved in the search for other survivors, however, they found none.

The four survivors and the five passenger victims had been heading to Homer on the charter to celebrate the Old Believer's Russian Orthodox Christmas. Instead, the survivors returned alone to the community of about 20 families to console three widows and 13 fatherless children.

The pilot, who also perished, was a well known Kodiak resident that earned praise for his excellence in the local flying community.

A Meritorious Service award was bestowed upon post supervisor, **Sgt. Maurice "Mo" Hughes**, for his involvement in rescue and recovery efforts following the plane crash.

## BETHEL



From left to right starting with back row: Sgt. Teague Widmier, Trp. Mike Duffield, Trp. Lucas Altepeter, Trp. Dixie Spencer of Aniak, Trp. Chris Nelson from Aniak, Trp. Mike Roberts, Lt. Craig Macdonald, Trp. Andrew Ballesteros, Trp. Sean Adkins of St. Mary's. Kneeling: Pilot Earl Samuelson, Trp. Charles Taylor, Trp. Joshua Trigg, Trp. Terry Tuckwood, Trp. Kemper, Trp. Henry Ching.



Trp. Lucas Altepeter and Trp. Charles Taylor spoke to students at the University of Alaska Fairbanks' Kuskokwim Campus Summer Camp in Bethel in June. Taylor poses with a bunch of the students attending the summer camp.

In February, Kodiak Troopers investigated a separate incident that claimed another life.

The Fishing Vessel Velocity headed out of the Kodiak Port during a blizzard warning and high seas reportedly over 16-foot waves on Feb. 9. The 37-foot, long liner was reportedly rolled over by a large wave near buoy four and washed up, upside down, onto the shore near residential areas on Spruce Cape behind Woodland Drive.

Kodiak Troopers, Bayside Fire Department, the U.S. Coast Guard MH-60 Jayhawk Helicopter with a rescue swimmer

and several civilians worked together to rescue the two individuals who were trapped inside. After a hole was cut into the bottom hull of the overturned vessel, an unconscious survivor and the deceased skipper were removed from the long liner and transported to the hospital. Trooper investigation revealed no signs of foul play.

The post welcomed **Robert Dittman** to the Dispatch Staff and lost **Trp. Grant Cooper** to Alaska Wildlife Troopers. The post also lost **Rose Cunningham**, who worked as a radio dispatcher from January to March. ■

C Det., continued from page 29

# Snapshots from Western Alaska

## NOME



Nome welcomed Holly Hill into the family when she and Trooper Jonnathon Stroebel got married on Dec. 31, 2007



Trp. Honie Culley acquired this Grinch gator through the Chinese gift auction at her house for a Christmas Party on Dec. 21, 2007.



Nome cold cases are exactly that – cold.

## DILLINGHAM



Togiak Police Chief Aaron Parker and Dillingham WAANT investigators Sgt. John Kirby and Inv. Nasruk Nay pause during an importation patrol on the Manokotak Trail on March 2.



Troopers Jason Fieser and Dave Bump enjoy a Memorial Day picnic at the Dillingham post.



Sgt. Randel McPherron was the main griller of a Memorial Day weekend picnic at the Dillingham post, as well as the official taster of Administrative Clerk Rebecca Roenfanz's home-brewed beer.

## KOTZEBUE



The children of Kotzebue post troopers enjoy a spring barbeque outside state housing.



From left to right, Malia Main, Emily Lorrington, Ciana Main and Gage Lorrington test out a snow cave Sgt. Karl Main built after a snowstorm in Kotzebue.

## ILIAMNA



The Iliamna post received its first prisoner holding cage for the office. AWT Trp John Groover stopped in on his days off with his daughter and tested out the new holding post and handed out trooper stickers. Seems to work well. Iliamna Trp Vanessa Meade is thinking about starting a day care service on the side.

## ANIAK



In May, Trp. Ron Monigold and Trp. Dixie Spencer were guests of honor in Tom Brock's kindergarten class at Auntie Mary Nicolai Elementary in Aniak. The class invited the troopers for lunch and a skit. Mr. Brock (not pictured) taught his class about the duties of law enforcement. Spencer gave the kindergarten class a tour of the trooper post and handed out trooper stickers. Students are pictured here with school librarian Mike Lehnert, Monigold and Spencer.

## 2007 AWARDS



C Detachment handed out 2007 awards at a picnic at its headquarters on Aug. 6. Those receiving awards that day are, from left to right, Kotzebue Sgt. Karl Main, Honorable Service; Kodiak Trooper Nick Zito, Honorable Service; Administrative Manager Karin Sullivan, Civilian of the Year; Detachment Commander Capt. Steve Arlow; Administrative Clerk II Jeanette Spofford, Letter of Commendation; and Lt. Tony April, Supervisor of the Year. Others who are not pictured but received awards for 2007 are Bethel Sgt. Teague Widmier, Trooper of the Year; Emmonak Trooper Kirsten Hansen, Honorable Service; and Bethel Administrative Clerk III Diane Johnson, Letter of Commendation.

## FEDERAL GRANT MONITOR TOURS WESTERN ALASKA

Grants Monitoring Specialist George Gibmeyer of the Community Oriented Policing Services, more commonly known as COPS, conducted a site visit on June 10-12, 2008. Gibmeyer traveled from Washington D.C. to review financial and programmatic operations for two of DPS' COPS grants.

Gibmeyer and several C Detachment and Administrative Services staff spent two days traveling to King Salmon, Koliganek, Iliamna, and Bethel, enabling Gibmeyer to interview Village Police Officers, Village Public Safety Officers, AST and AWT staff and community members.

Gibmeyer observed firsthand the extreme geographical distances and remoteness that DPS/VPSO staff contend with on a daily basis. As this was Gibmeyer's first visit to Alaska, during the trip he was fortunate to see Alaskan resources such as brown bears, Dall sheep, hanging glaciers and woolly mammoth tusks.

During exit interviews on June 12, Gibmeyer had many good things to say about the professionalism of DPS staff. He commented on how well the AST/AWT staff and VPSO's had integrated the community-oriented policing concepts in the villages and towns visited.

As a component of the Justice Department, the mission of the COPS Office is to advance the practice of community policing as an effective strategy to improve public safety. The COPS Office was created through the Violent Crime Control and Law



Personnel who assisted George Gibmeyer are (left to right) VPSO Training Coordinator Sgt. Leonard Wallner, Aircraft Pilot Earl Samuelson, DPS Grants Manager Sherry Hassell, C Detachment Commander Capt. Steve Arlow, D.A.R.E. Coordinator Naomi Sweetman and Village Public Safety Officer Daniel Decker.

Enforcement Act of 1994. COPS awards grants to tribal, state and local law enforcement agencies to hire and train community policing professionals to help move them from a reactive to a proactive role. ■

# D DETACHMENT NEWS

## Cold Weather Driving



BY SGT. TIM TUCKWOOD, DELTA JUNCTION AST

Near the end of January, troopers from the Interior got a little break from the madness and participated in some winter driving training located at the Cold Regions Test Center at Fort Greely in Delta Junction.

In 2002, the U.S. Army built a Mobility Test Complex south of Delta Junction that is state of the art. The facility is primarily used for military vehicle testing and training, however, at certain times of the year the facility is leased out to private companies when the military is not using it. Over the past few years, it has been used by several different motor vehicle manufacturers for vehicle testing.

Troopers from Fairbanks, Delta Junction, Tok and Northway were fortunate enough to use the top notch facility. The facility consists of an automotive and test support complex with office space and accommodations that make you hesitate returning to your own office. The facility has 20-, 40-, and 60-degree test slopes, a lateral acceleration pad, a skid pad, a 3.2-mile oval track, snow fields and an off-road course. All of this is fortified with a full range of equipment for any season to include snow plows, snow movers, snow makers, snow levelers, ice makers and ice melters.

This was a two-day training session with about 10 troopers each day. Former academy instructor, **Sgt. Rick Roberts**, now with Fairbanks AST, provided the instruction for each day.

Roberts was thoroughly impressed with the facility since it was a huge departure from his academy days, particularly because it is not surrounded by water.

The training concentrated on defensive driving on snow and ice. Troopers practiced stopping, braking, starting and steering on both surfaces to get the feel of how their patrol vehicles perform on both surfaces. The training was highly beneficial and served as a good reminder to everyone to "just slow down" when driving the roads in the winter. The Fairbanks AST Post took top honors on day one and showed that an out of control Ford Crown Victoria can plow through 4 feet of snow.

CRTC has since extended the training offer to other law enforcement agencies and emergency response drivers. ■

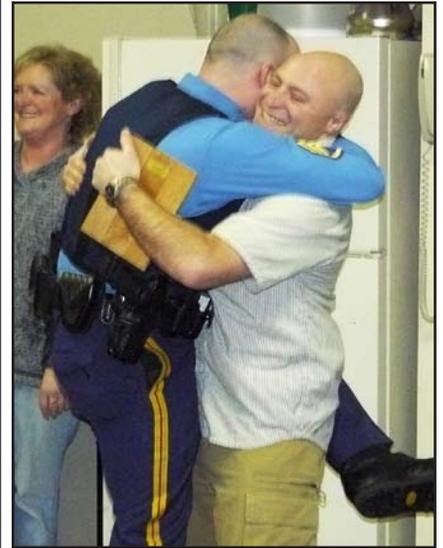


The Fairbanks AST Post shows that an out-of-control Ford Crown Victoria can plow through 4 feet of snow.



Troopers practice stopping, braking, starting and steering on both snow and ice.

## HAPPY TRAILS



Sgt. Rick Roberts finds it hard to say goodbye to Trp. Ryan Tennis on his last workday in Fairbanks before he went to Soldotna.



Trp. Christopher Nelson receives a plaque of appreciation from Lt. Lonney Piscoya on Feb. 8. Nelson is now in Aniak.



Gary Nabielski receives his letter and pin for 25 years of service with the State of Alaska from Maj. Matt Leveque on April 29 during his retirement party. Nabielski was been a custodian with AST for 25 years, but decided it was time to retire. He and wife, Cathy, moved to Wisconsin in June.

# HORSTOCIALLY SPEAKING

BY BETH IPSEN, PIO



Fairbanks troopers “impound” two loose horses for safekeeping in this photo dated 1962.

In the photograph on the left, dated May 12, 1962, two troopers, identified only by last names of Trumbull and Rudolph, had to capture two horses running at large in the Island Homes area. According to information on the back of the photograph, the two horses were “impounded for safekeeping at Creamer’s Field.” Rudolph is riding the horse.

Last fall, **Sgt. Odean Hall** responded to a similar report of a horse loose and obstructing traffic on Airport Way in Fairbanks. Hall located the horse and after about an hour-long rodeo roundup he was able to slip a make-shift halter, made with a hobble and truck tie-down, around the skittish animal's neck. It was unknown who the horse owner was



Sgt. Odean Hall wrangles a loose horse in Fairbanks in this photo dated 2007.

and no one was available with a horse trailer. Unlike the 1962 incident, this horse would not let Hall ride it, so he was forced to walk the stubborn horse five miles down the highway to a fenced veterinarian’s office on Peger Road where it was also “impounded for safekeeping.” Hall got his cardio workout for the day and the horse was safe. Now a lot of Fairbanks troopers carry a rope in the trunk of their patrol car, just in case, according to photographer **Trp. Scott Sands**.

“Looks like Fairbanks Troopers might need to think about turning in our Stetson’s for cowboy hats,” Sands said after seeing the older photograph. ■

## FAIRBANKS HOSTS RUN KICK-OFF

Fairbanks hosted the kick-off event for the 2008 Special Olympics in Alaska on May 10 at the Alaska State Troopers Fairbanks post. This year the Fairbanks Special Olympic Athletes include Guy West, Amy Murriels, Chrissy Peri, Sharon Lee, Bendi Power, Alex Cain, Jonathan Leeman, Sandy McWhirer, Alex Lee, Kalen Cornwall, Sean Flannery, Dahkota Mitchell and Mandy Gentleman. The event allowed the athletes to meet some of the local law enforcement officers also participating in the run.

A week later, 17 communities across Alaska participated in Law Enforcement Torch Runs. Hundreds of police officers and troopers from around the state participated in the run in their respective community.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run began in 1981 in Kansas. The Chief of the Wichita Police Department decided it was a good way to get law enforcement personnel more involved with Special Olympics. What started out as a small run with six officers participating has turned into an international success with runs occurring in more than 35 countries. ■



Fairbanks hosted the kick-off event for the 2008 Special Olympics in Alaska on May 10.



Sgt. Brian Wassmann carries the torch in the Annual Torch Run held May 17 in Fairbanks.



CSOs Luci Keturi and Cheryl Gilmour, plus Crime Scene Technician Kathi Young whipped the Polar Ice Rink bear costume into a cousin of Safety Bear for the Torch Run. Keturi did the 5K in the costume.

# PUBLIC SERVICE AT 70 BELOW

BY SGT. FREDDIE WELLS, TOK/NORTHWAY SUPERVISOR



Wells

At 2:59 a.m. on Feb. 6, 2008, I was jolted out of sleep by a telephone call for help from a 70-year old resident of Tok. The man reported that his heat was not working. I was shocked when I checked my thermometer and read 67 degrees below zero. Realizing the consequences of an elderly man without heat in such extreme temperatures, I dressed and headed out to help. Upon arrival, I was greeted by an elderly gentleman in a wheelchair. I quickly realized the propane inside the man's tank was frozen. The heat in the house was about 40 degrees and the gentleman had mild frostbite on his thumb.

I immediately got to work and attended the heater in effort to warm the house. After several failed attempts to get the elderly gentleman's heater working, I pulled my personal heater from my patrol vehicle to warm the house. After the house was warmed, I realized that I couldn't leave my heater indefinitely because I need to answer calls from someone else who might need help that frigid, 70 below zero day in Interior Alaska. I left my heater until the local store opened at 8 a.m. Then I purchased an electric heater and delivered it to the gentleman. Knowing that the elderly gentleman would not accept handouts, I told him just keep the heater until he can get things fixed.

I am a firm believer of "do unto others as you would have them do unto you at negative 70." ■

## A NORMAL WINTER DAY



Trp. Matt Wertanen snapped this photo of what can happen on icy Interior Roads, in this case Mile 21 Chena Hot Springs Road in Two Rivers on Jan. 20, 2007.



Troopers Josh Rallo, far left in black helmet and white jersey, and Ed Halbert (middle) wait for the puck during a face-off. Others from the law enforcement team pictured include Jim Gibson in the face-off on the right and goalie Jim O'Malley, both from the Fairbanks Police Department. Rallo scored the goal in the Ice Hogs' loss.

# GUNS VS. HOSES

BY AMANDA MULDOON, ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK II

For the last three years, the Fairbanks law enforcement and the local fire departments have taken the rivalry from the streets and thrown it all down on the ice for the annual Guns and Hoses game. Hockey week plays host to several events – both Ice Dogs and Alaska Nanooks games, the annual Blue versus Gold game and the induction of members into the Hockey Hall of Fame. Since 2006, Fairbanks has hosted hockey week, and one of the pivotal hours of that week is the revered game between the two main entities that keep the city safe – Fire/EMS and law enforcement.

For most, the police versus fire game is the only time they play hockey all year. For a few others, like our own Court Services Officer Luci Keturi, it's just another game during the regular hockey season. The law enforcement team put a few practices together. While the names of the players change every year, the spirit of the team lives on.

In the beginning, the groups were small, practices were few and there were no team jerseys. However, as the years have gone by, the teams have reached out to get the best from as far east as Tok and as far south as Anchorage.

The rosters began with a few Fairbanks

police and fire officers and have now grown to full capacity as they encompass all local agencies from probation to the district attorney's office, as well as law enforcement from around the state. This year, **Josh Rallo** from Tok AST, **Edward Halbert** of Delta Junction AST, **Luci Keturi** from Fairbanks Judicial Services and Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement **Inv. Josh Moore** joined the Fairbanks Ice Hogs.

When hockey week began in 2006, the game tied 3-3. Last year, law enforcement snatched a victory, with a 3-2 win. This year's game, however, unlike the past two years, wasn't everything that law enforcement had hoped it would be. The Guns started off strong, with the first goal in the first period by Rallo, but the Guns luck ran out there. With a penalty point in the second period by Rallo and a scoreless second and third period, the Hogs lost the game, 6-1.

For most it was just a chance to play and get together with friends that they otherwise would rarely see. For some, it was a chance to recapture lost youth and play just one more game. But for all police and fire, near or far, it was a community event that brought everyone together for a little good old-fashioned Alaska hockey. ■

# ALIENS IN ALASKA?

Fairbanks Trp. **Mike Wery** had “one traffic stop for the books” on Aug. 13 when he stopped a solar car at mile 388 of the Richardson Highway.

“We got several complaints of the vehicle traveling 45 mph and they said it looked like a space ship,” Wery said.

Instead of finding what he thought would be the Bombardier’s new 3 wheel motorcycle, Wery stopped what looked like a wafer with wheels. The vehicle, run completely on solar power, was attempting to set a world distance record.

When Wery stopped the vehicle and its trail support vehicle, he explained that troopers received several complaints and asked if they were aware of the move over law. They said they were aware of the law, but backed traffic up on the curves. Everyone on the crew was from Canada except for one from Germany. The vehicle was licensed out of Barbados.

They were also doing a documentary and Wery was filmed and photographed by the crew. The photo and a small entry regarding the traffic stop can be found on the Aug. 13 entry at of the project news



Fairbanks Trooper Mike Wery stands beside the solar car he pulled over on the Richardson Highway on Aug. 13.

update link at [www.xofl.com](http://www.xofl.com).

Wery was full of questions for the crew, including what was the gas mileage. The answer was 100 percent, to which both Wery and the crew had a good laugh. Wery didn’t ticket them.

A couple of days later, Wery passed the solar car on his way to Anchorage. When he stopped for construction, he walked back to visited again with the crew, but this time out of uniform, joking with them that troopers are everywhere. ■

# D.A.R.E PROGRAM RETURNS TO TOK



Tok Trp. **Tim Powell** with his Drug and Alcohol Resistance Education class at Tok School.

The Drug and Alcohol Resistance Education program returned to Tok last year after a seven-year hiatus.

Trp. **Tim Powell** of the Alaska State Troopers in Tok taught the Tok School fifth and sixth graders in a combined class of 29 students. The Tok students are a great bunch of kids, who remained involved and contributed to the class making the 10-week program go extremely quickly for Powell.

The program ended on Dec. 18, 2007 with a commencement ceremony at the Tok School. There, the students participated in a

graduation ceremony.

Fifth-grade students Chloe Helmer, Alexa Peet and Lizzy Rowe and sixth-grader Noelle Helmer read their D.A.R.E. essays in front of the parents and teachers attended the graduation ceremony.

The essay winners were Chloe Helmer of the fifth grade and Cole Johnson for the sixth grade.

The ceremony ended with refreshments and social time. Many businesses in the community provided support to help make the D.A.R.E. program a huge success. ■

# DISPATCHER RECOGNIZED FOR JOB WELL DONE



Capt. **Burke Barrick** congratulates Paula Davis in the Fairbanks dispatch center.

Fairbanks Radio Dispatcher **Paula Davis** was awarded a letter of commendation, presented by **Capt. Burke Barrick**, for her tenacity, professionalism and perseverance while tracking down a child who called 911 on a cell phone over 50 times during a four hour period on Oct. 23, 2007. Paula was able to eventually get the child’s attention and establish a rapport while trying to learn who she was and where she was calling from. Paula was instrumental in determining the location of the child. She also helped guide troopers and hospital personnel to the child and her mother, disabled the phone and provided instructions on dialing 911. ■

# TROOPER WINS DOT AWARD FOR DRUNK DRIVING ARRESTS



Former Fairbanks trooper **Scott Sands** won the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities 2008 Alaska Strategic Traffic Enforcement Partnership award for improving safety on Alaska roads by removing a high number of drunk drivers. Sands removed 122 drunk drivers from Alaska’s roads last year, one every two days while he was on duty. On May 9, DOT&PF Deputy Commissioner Frank Richards presented the award to AST **Capt. Hans Brinke**, who accepted the award for Sands. Sands is now an Alaska Wildlife Trooper in Petersburg. ■

# AWARDS



Trp. Mike Potter receives his D Detachment Trooper of the Year 2006 plaque from Capt. Burke Barrick.



Trp. Maurizio Salinas receives his five-year pin from Lt. Lonny Piscoya.



Angie Martin, Fairbanks dispatch, receives her pin for 10 years of State Service from Lt. Ron Wall.

## Photos from the Interior



CSO Luci Keturi participated in the Becoming an Outdoor Woman, a retreat put on every year at Lost Lake. One of her favorite events was rappelling three towers at 28 feet, 43 feet and 48 feet, while on a zip line. Pictured at right, Erin Buchanan, a dispatcher with AST in Fairbanks, holds her 4-year old grandson and possible future trooper recruit, Brenden Lindgren. Dispatcher Kitty Lancaster made the shirt.



Fairbanks troopers Jeremy Stone and Dan Brom walk back to their patrol cars after checking out a false alarm at a Birch Hill area home.

Pictured at right, Sgt. Rick Roberts warns a tourist about the hazards of speeding.



## TROOPER PART OF WINNING TEAM



Team members of the 354th Security Forces Squadron that won a bowling league at Eielson Air Force Base include, from left to right, North Police Officer Scott Kvittem; U.S. Air Force retiree Robbie Fisher; Trp. Mike Wery; and Tim Horn, a USAF retiree and current Chenega Security Guard at Eielson. Not pictured is Kurt Rodriguez of the 354th Security Forces Squadron at Eielson.

Trp. Mike Wery was a part of a bowling team that took first place for the Eielson Air Force Base Intramural Bowling League. Wery was a member of the 354th Security Forces Squadron bowling team, one of the 18 teams in the 33-week-long season. The team went from last place after the first round to first by the end of the season, taking the position from a team that had spent more than half the season at the top of the rankings. ■

# AVA'S RACE CONTINUES

BY DIANE LINDNER, FAIRBANKS EVIDENCE CLERK

Last year at this time I proudly reported my daughter Ava's first experience in the world of sled dog racing after placing sixth in the 2007 Junior Iditarod. One year later, and minus one set of tonsils and two trips to the emergency room, my determined 16-year old continues to gain the knowledge needed to fulfill her dream of racing in the 2010 Iditarod to Nome.

Despite the hard lessons learned along the way, Ava appears to be proving the *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner* correct after a report in which they declare she is following her famous father's footsteps. Father and daughter can now claim they both earned the winner title in their first Yukon Quest race – he in the 1984 inaugural Yukon Quest, and Ava in the 2008 Junior Yukon Quest that took place Feb. 2-3 in Fairbanks.

Ava was the lone local entrant in the Jr. Yukon Quest, a race that started and finished along the frozen banks of the Chena River in downtown Fairbanks. The temperatures were 5 below zero at the start, and then minus 30 the next day at the finish line. Standing there waiting for a musher to appear on the horizon can be torture, especially when you are not sure who will show up first. Ava had been running the entire race with the young man that beat her by 20 seconds in the Cantwell Classic in January. They both posted the same times in and out of check points, and despite a report from her father informing me she was 15 minutes ahead, I knew I could not assume anything until I saw a team cross the line.

Little did I know on the day of the start, when I teased Ava about her lead dog Mikki's fluorescent pink t-shirt that I would be grateful for it the next day at the finish line. Someone in the crowd yelled "team!" and in the distance we could make out dogs and a musher but against the gray skyline it was difficult to see who they were. There was a splash of pink as Mikki led



Ava Lindner and her team of dogs at the start of the Junior Yukon Quest.

the team down the river and into the finish chute to capture first place.

Two weeks later, on a gorgeous, sunny morning on Willow Lake, Ava and her team were 21<sup>st</sup> out of the starting chute in the 2008 Junior Iditarod. Ava's team was in excellent condition and we were confident they would finish well, and near the top. We expected her to arrive in the Yentna checkpoint for her mandatory 10-hour layover at around 5 or 6 p.m., and that she would be among the front runners.

With that in mind, it came as quite a shock when at 8 p.m. I received what I thought would be the call from her father telling me what time she arrived at the checkpoint. Instead, he informed me that "she never made it" and was currently running in 20<sup>th</sup> place. A knot formed instantly in my stomach and I'm pretty sure I stopped breathing for a moment or two. He advised me that either she took a wrong turn, or the checkers missed her and didn't add her to

the update available on the website. It took me about five seconds to imagine 5,000 scenarios of everything that could have happened. After assuring me he'd call me as soon as he found something I spent the next 30 minutes sick to my stomach with worry.

I got the call that everything was okay; the officials had missed Ava. She actually reached the checkpoint at 5 p.m., posting the fastest time in. She'd been there all along busily taking care of her dogs, etc. I was relieved to say the least, especially when she crossed the finish line the next morning in fifth place and just 32 minutes behind the first-place finisher. She had lost 30 minutes the day before when shortly after taking off at the start, she and her team took a trip over a snowbank down onto the river, tipping her sled in the process and experiencing some time being dragged behind the team while holding tightly onto the sled's handlebars.

Ava is done racing for the season but plans to be back in full force next year. She and her father traveled with their teams up the trail to Nome from Manley to experience some of the Iditarod trail as she sets her sights for 2010. While others teenagers geared up for spring break with plans for Mexico, Disneyland, Hawaii or Florida, my little girl was finding beauty and excitement with her team as they traveled through the Alaskan wilderness, enjoying all it offers to those who choose to explore it.

Ava is gearing up for another year of sled dog racing. In early September, Ava moved to her father's house in Two Rivers where he keeps his dogs. She's been busy training their dogs, using a four wheeler to hook the teams to while waiting for more snow to blanket the trails. ■



Ava Lindner talks to her lead dog, Mikki, before the start of the Junior Yukon Quest. Lindner would go on to win the race.



Ava Lindner waits for the word to start the Jr. Iditarod. Her mother, Fairbanks Evidence Clerk Diane Linder, on far left in blue, helps hold the line out.

# E DETACHMENT NEWS

BY LIZ HIBBS,  
GIRDWOOD ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK  
AND SUE FLEETWOOD,  
SEWARD ADMINSTRATIVE CLERK

Girdwood troopers had a busy spring trying to help people find their way back home, as in search and rescues, and by keeping the traffic moving smoothly on the Seward Highway – always a big job. **Trp. Timothy Lewis** was out there most days writing tickets and making new friends. His most famous friend to receive a ticket so far is a celebrity from the Tonight Show. Lewis clocked him driving 83 in a 65 in the Traffic Safety Corridor on May 20, 2008.

**Trp. Mike Henry** from the Anchor Point Post taught Mrs. Jen’s fifth-sixth grade combination class at Ninilchik School the Drug Abuse Resistance Education, or D.A.R.E. program. It was Henry’s first class to teach as a D.A.R.E officer. He had help from Anchor Point **Alaska Wildlife Trooper Travis Bordner**. Detachment Commander **Capt. Pete Mlynarik**, Ninilchik post **Trp. David Sherbahn** and Anchor Point supervisor **Sgt. Tom Dunn** attended the graduation. Sherbahn’s son, Wesley, was among the students in the class. D.A.R.E. is a 10-lesson program to teach kids good decision making, especially regarding tobacco, alcohol and drugs. The D.A.R.E. graduation was April 25.

Henry helped Homer Police Officer Alex Douthit and Dunn organize the Law Enforcement Torch Run that took place in Homer on May 17, 2008. This event was to raise money for Special Olympics. Homer PD Officer Jim Knott participated in the run.

Congratulations are in order for **Trp. Garrett Willis** of Cooper Landing Post and his lovely bride, Amber. They were married in a beautiful ceremony on May 3, 2008 in Wasilla. The wedding party



**Anchor Point Trp. Mike Henry and his D.A.R.E class at graduation in May.**

included **Trp. Dave Bower** of Palmer Post, **AWT Dan Dahl** of St. Mary’s Post and the ring bearer was Tyler Roberts, son of Bethel-based trooper **Mike Roberts**. Our Best to You Both!

E Detachment, Kenai Judicial Services section would like to welcome **Signe Anderson**. Signe is no stranger to the E Detachment/Soldotna family. She started her DPS career as the Anchor Point clerk in August of 2003. She then transferred to Soldotna Alaska Bureau of Investigations in February of 2007 and

(E Detachment, continued on page 39)



**Trp. Garrett Willis of the Cooper Landing Post was married on May 3, 2008 in Wasilla. The wedding party included Trp. Dave Bower of Palmer Post, AWT Dan Dahl of St. Mary’s Post and the ring bearer was Tyler Roberts, son of Bethel trooper Mike Roberts.**



**Participants line up for the start of the Law Enforcement Torch Run in Homer on May 17.**

## BEWARE OF FALLING MOOSE

BY BETH IPSEN, PIO



**A moose lies on the side of the Seward Highway after his fall from a cliff.**

Girdwood based **Trp. Howie Peterson** got the shock of his life while patrolling the Seward Highway on Feb. 1.

It was about midnight when something fell out of the sky. He’s seen rocks, snow and even cars fall from cliffs before, but nothing prepared him for what hit hard on the edge of the road at Mile 113.

At first, he thought he was about to get into a crash he would have a hard time explaining.

Luckily, he avoided colliding with the moose. He snapped a few photos and called charity to salvage the meat.

The event was featured on media websites and blogs around the world, including a Feb. 12 article that quoted a biologist saying it is unlikely the moose committed suicide.

Does this mean the moose may have been a victim of foul play? Should troopers be on the look out for a sheep with an axe to grind?

One answer reporters sought was what was the sex of the moose.

The inquiry conjured up all sorts of remarks such as is did one gender’s actions push the other gender to jump off a cliff?

Kevin Fiedler of Challenge Alaska, the charity that salvaged the meat, said the moose was a bull.

So, did the moose refuse to ask for directions and take a wrong turn off a 50-foot cliff?

Fiedler said it’s not the first time he’s salvaged a moose that’s taken a deadly plunge off a cliff. He recalls picking up three on that stretch of road in the past seven to 10 years. However, he doesn’t recall the sex of these moose. ■

# E Det., continued from page 38

moved to the JS office as of April of 2008. We are glad Signe has chosen to stay with the AST family. She has certainly helped to fill the void left in the JS office.



Signe was born in **Anderson** Montana and moved to Alaska with her family when she was 3. She has two older brothers and one older sister who all live in Alaska. Anchor Point was home to Signe before she and her husband, Daniel, moved to Soldotna. Within a few months, her sister and her parents also moved to the Soldotna area.

Signe and Daniel have been married two years. They have an Australian shepherd dog named Alfie. Signe enjoys cooking, gardening, hiking, scrapbooking, going to the movies and spending time with family. Welcome back Signe.

Also new to Soldotna are new troopers **Gordon Young** and **Joseph Wittkop**. Both went through FTO in Soldotna with Young now on patrol and Wittkop a Soldotna Alaska Wildlife Trooper. Then in July, the detachment welcomed recruits **Timothy Abbott** (AWT), **Michael Shelley**, **Brent Hatch**, **Larry Dur'An** and **Michael Hicks** (AWT) who are cutting their teeth in Soldotna.

Safety Bear had a busy spring on the Peninsula.

Safety Cub visited Seward on March 6-7. The fuzzy and cuddly member of the Carnivora Ursidae family was escorted to the Seward Elementary School by **Trp. Mike Zweifel**, and to the preschool story



New Alaska Wildlife Trooper Joe Wittkop helps a disabled truck on the Sterling Highway during his field training in April.



Soldotna post's administrative clerk Shae Hollandsworth (in green), clowns around as the Team 911, made up of troopers, dispatchers and friends and family, prepares to participate in the Relay for Life, the American Cancer Society's big annual fundraiser.



Safety Bear meets his admirers.

hour by **Trp. Neal Fulks**. Information was imparted about playground safety, school bus safety and how to dial 911, just to name a few. The students enthusiastically participated, and all were impressed by the friendly bear (AWT Joe Wittkop/Sue Fleetwood) and the troopers' very thorough presentation.

Safety Bear also made a visit to Redoubt Elementary School where **Trp. Larry Erickson's** 14-year-old son, Michael, played the part of Safety Bear. Michael takes turns with his mom, Rachel, and his 16-year-old sister, Emily. They're quite a team. ■



New trooper Gordon Young guides a woman and her two dogs out of the woods after she had a run in with a bear outside Soldotna.



Looks like the weather cooperated in providing a realistic training environment for the Southern Region Special Emergency Reaction Team's cold weather tracking class. Pictured back row, left to right: Trp. Mike Henry, AST Sgt. Jim Truesdell, Officer Chris Johnson of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, AST Lt. Dane Gilmore. Front row, left to right: AST Trp. Kyle Carson, AST Trp. Darrel Christensen and AST Trp. Mike Zweifel.



Capt. Peter Mlynarik, Commander of E Detachment, is a real asset to the department with his piloting skills.



Administrative Supervisor Jan Redford, right, gives Administrative Clerk Kris Bailie a plaque recognizing all her hard work while employed with DPS. Bailie transferred to the Department of Corrections as a Correctional Officer.

# 2006 AWARDS



Capt. Pete Mlynarik awards E Detachment Trooper of the Year to Sgt. Tom Dunn.



Lt. Dane Gilmore gives Signe Anderson her letter of commendation.



Capt. Pete Mlynarik gives Trp. Ryan Browning his letter of commendation.



Capt. Pete Mlynarik gives CSO Chris Graves his letter of commendation.



Lt. Dane Gilmore gives Sgt. Derek Loop his plaque for Honorable Service.

# All in a Day's Work



100 MPH AND A FIFTH OF CAPTAIN MORGAN DON'T MIX – Troopers Dan Cox, left, and Mike Zweifel investigate a single-vehicle rollover at mile 33 of the Seward Highway on May 2, 2008. The driver lost control of the vehicle, causing the vehicle to slide sideways for over 200 feet, and then roll several times. The driver was extracted by medical crews and transported via LifeGuard to Anchorage recover from injuries suffered in the crash.



This 32-foot aluminum charter boat isn't trying to test its ability to navigate railroad tracks. Instead, it landed in the ditch of the Seward Highway after it came unhooked from the truck that was towing it in August. The incident was blamed on the improper ball size on the towing truck.



Girdwood Trooper Tim Lewis stopped this vehicle on Alyeska Highway. The driver explained she was in headed to work, although her trip was delayed while a she was issued a ticket for expired registration, no proof of insurance and an obstructed view.



This travel trailer was decimated in an explosion caused by a propane leak inside the trailer camped at mile 69 of the Seward Highway on Aug. 1, 2008. The two people and a dog that were staying in the trailer survived.



Trp. Dan Cox snapped this photo of an avalanche across the Seward Highway at about 21 mile. The avalanche crossed the highway and railroad with debris stretched all the way to the Kenai Lake, blocking off the flow of traffic and the railroad on Feb. 19, 2008. The road was closed for 20 hours while DOT cleaned up the snow.



Trp. Garrett Willis transported a baby moose in the back of his patrol car to reunite the moose with its mother May 28 after two became separated by the Kenai river at mile 49.5 of the Sterling Highway.



# ALASKA WILDLIFE TROOPERS



## Successful Bids

Alaska Wildlife Trooper Director Col. Gary Folger is pleased to announce the following successful bidders:

- **Trp. Scott Sands** from Fairbanks D Detachment AST, is the successful bidder for Petersburg in A Detachment AWT, effective May 1, 2008.
- **Trp. Joseph Paul** from Fairbanks D Detachment AWT, is the successful bidder for Wrangell in A Detachment AWT, effective May 1, 2008.
- **Trp. Daniel Gunderson** from Palmer B Detachment AWT, is the successful

bidder for Klawock in A Detachment AWT, effective Sept. 16, 2008.

- **Sgt. Bernard Chastain**, Ketchikan in A Detachment AWT, is the successful bidder for Palmer in B Detachment AWT, effective Oct. 1, 2008.
- **Trp. Shaun Kuzakin** of Sitka in A Detachment AWT, is the successful bidder Juneau AWT, effective Oct. 1, 2008.
- **Trp. Douglas Massie**, Talkeetna B Detachment AWT, is the successful bidder for Palmer in B Detachment AWT, effective Oct. 1, 2008.

• **Trp. Marc Hendrickson** of King Salmon in C Detachment AST, is the successful bidder for Fairbanks in D Detachment AWT, effective Oct. 1, 2008.

• **Trp. Daniel Gunderson** from Palmer in B Detachment AWT, is the successful bidder for Klawock in A Detachment AWT, effective September 16, 2008.

• **Sgt. Gregory Garcia** of Dutch Harbor in C Detachment AWT, is the successful bidder for Ketchikan, A Detachment AWT, effective Oct. 16, 2008. ■

## RANDALL PUTS ON SERGEANT STRIPES



Sgt. Paul Randall enjoys his recent promotion and assignment to Bethel with a late-season skiff patrol on the Napaskiak Slough.

Colonel Gary Folger is pleased to announce the promotion of **Trp. Paul Randall**, of Alaska Wildlife Troopers C Detachment/Southwest Kodiak Post to sergeant of the the AWT's Bethel Post,

effective May 16, 2008.

Randall began his law enforcement career with Recruit Class 42 in December 1993. After graduating the Training Academy, Randall did his field training program at the Anchorage Post. In July 1994, Randall transferred to the Palmer Post.

In January 1997, Randall transferred to Klawock Post before going to Cooper Landing in December 1999. He was promoted to corporal in March 2004 and transferred to the DPS Academy in Sitka as an instructor.

After almost three years as an instructor, Randall transferred from AST to AWT in January 2007 and settled in at the Kodiak Post. ■

## AWARDS



Lt. Todd Sharp congratulates Sgt. Bernard Chastain on his Advanced Police Certificate.



Trp. Jeremy Baum, left, receives his five-year pin and certificate from Lt. Todd Sharp.



Lt. Will Ellis presents Vessel Technician II Bill Wertanen the 2006 Honorable Service Award. Wertanen is assigned to the P/V Woldstad.



Lt. Will Ellis presents Trp. Jonathan Streifel the 2006 Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement Trooper of the year award. Streifel is assigned to the P/V Cama'i.

# INQUISITIVE SCHOOL CHILDREN TOUR STIMSON

BY TROY MAGNUSEN, BOAT OFFICER IV



Skipper Troy Magnusen stands in the Stimson's pantry entrance while he talks to students during a tour through the galley.

"What makes the boat move?" and "How does it produce its own electricity?" are some of the questions the crew of the P/V Stimson fielded when they entertained and educated a fourth-grade class aboard the vessel docked in Dutch Harbor on Feb. 22.

Boat Officer III Neil Ensign led the 15 students from Mary Downs' fourth-grade class on a tour of the entire vessel, starting in the forepeak, down through the tank alley and the engine room. At 156 feet in length and weighing 443 tons, the Stimson is the largest patrol vessel in the state's inventory. The class had a lot of area to cover in the tour.

When the students got to the galley, most students were surprised how big it was. Many stated it was larger than the kitchen they have at home. Of course they were surprised how much food was in the pantry. When they saw the candy section it was all I could to keep them out of it until the end of the tour.

Next, we took them through the stateroom levels and the lower head on these levels. Once in the wheelhouse, I answered questions pertaining to the radars and other marine equipment the Stimson uses to help guide the ship. There I told the students how we rescued a man stranded on his upside down hull last year, leading into a conversation about hypothermia and how to treat it.

The Stimson's primary function is commercial fisheries enforcement in the Bering Sea and Bristol Bay. However, because of its size and stability, it's able to respond year round to search and rescue missions and environmental pollution response and is equipped for firefighting.

I then showed them the radar and went through the different areas the children would



First Mate Neil Ensign leads student through the engine room. The students stand between the two main Caterpillar engines.



Teacher Mary Downs shows students how to put on a survival suit in less than two minutes.



Boat Master Troy Magnusen talks to students while the class is in the wheelhouse.

recognize. We also used the Stimson's sonar to look at the dock's piling underwater.

The crews sounded the general alarm, and then informed the students what we do in case of a real emergency and whether it is a man overboard, abandon ship or fire. Once we got back down to the galley, we put their teacher through the two-minute survival suit drill. Much to the thrill of her students, Mrs. Mary Downs donned the suit in only a minute and half.

At the end of the tour, we handed out goodies – safety bear reflectors, junior trooper stickers, U.S. Coast Guard approved orange whistles, yellow trooper sticky pads and finally trooper balloons. They looked like they all had a good time. ■

**Q: How does the boat move?**

A: The boat moves under two Caterpillar engines. The propulsion size of the main engines is called 3508 Caterpillars. These are large engines that run and have steel shafts that extend down into the water out the back of the boat – known as the stern of the vessel – which is attached to a four-bladed propeller. The propeller turns at about 1,500 revolutions per minute.

**Q: How does it produce its own electricity?**

A: The engine has three generators also built by caterpillar and the size of them are 3406s, these engines while running produce electricity which then power up the boat with 480 Volts or 110 Volts with the help of a converter.

**Q: What is a bilge and what is it used for?**

A: A bilge is an area in the engine room under the engines where the water would collect first if water gets into the vessel through the shaft packing or possibly through a leak. We also have bilge pumps in the bilges to pump any water that may have collected in the area back into the sea.

**Q: How many people does the vessel sleep?**

A: The P/V Stimson sleeps total of 19 people on board.

**Q: What are the little pieces of wood that are on the sides of the bunks and what are they for?**

A: The little pieces of wood on the side of the bunks help hold people in bed when we get into heavy seas. They act like support so people aren't thrown out of the bunks.

**Q: What do you do if there is a woman on board?**

A: There have been plenty of women on board. We try to separate the males from the females by giving women separate rooms and by putting a sign on the door for the bathroom, known as the head, to inform people to knock to see if the head is occupied.

# BLUE 52

BY DAN DAHL, ST. MARY'S AWT

The airplane I use to fly over the villages on the Lower Yukon River is known as Blue 52. Locals in the area gave the plane its nickname because of its color and tail number, N7052. Over the years, Blue 52 and I have collected stories and photos from my wildlife enforcement patrols.

I meet interesting people while doing my normal duties of the job. One such person was a man I met one day while patrolling the Yukon River just up from Marshall. From the air, I spotted a snow machine pulling a big yellow sled. Since I needed a coffee break anyway, I landed and met a man named Charlie Boots.

Charlie rides his old Elan snowmachine around the country on long trips. That old snowmachine never misses a beat. Charlie lives in a cabin along the north bank of the Yukon, around the corner and upriver from Devils Elbow and the Ohogamiut area, which



**Charlie Boots, his trusty old Elan snowmachine and Blue 52 in the mountains near Boots' cabin.**



**Blue 52 and wolf carcasses pilot AWT Dan Dahl discovered near Russian Mission.**

is above the village of Marshall.

On this particular day, Charlie was driving his old Elan snow machine with no hood. The machine ran like a dream and Charlie was loving life. The fact that the snowmachine didn't have a hood didn't matter to Charlie. He goes on long trips with that machine with no worries about getting home.

Like many people in the area, Charlie lives a subsistence lifestyle. He puts his net out in the summer for fishing, traps some in the winter, hunts a little in the fall for moose and goes into Marshall via boat or snowmachine to get supplies once in a while. Charlie is now in his mid 70's and still gets out and about and is very healthy.

Charlie was kind enough to take a picture with Blue 52. This picture was taken approximately 10 miles Southeast of Marshall, just off the Yukon River in the mountains

heading towards Charlie Boot's cabin. I consider myself very fortunate to spend a little time with and get to know Charlie Boots.

There are stories from other aerial patrols as well. Last winter, while flying patrol, I observed what appeared to be a kill site in a little slough off the Yukon River up near Russian Mission. After landing near the kill site, I found a discarded pile from a trapper that contained some unskinned wolves with the heads and feet cut off. The subsequent investigation resulted in two counts of failure to salvage the hide of a wolf.

Another time I stumbled upon hunters from Minnesota that, because of the remoteness of their Alaskan hunt, had never been contacted by someone flying an airplane. I found them hunting 30 miles up the Atchuelinguk River, which flows into the Yukon next to the village of Pilot Station. They too, were willing to pose for a photo with Blue 52. ■



**AWT Dan Dahl surprised these two hunters from Minnesota when he landed his Supercub, Blue 52, to check on their hunt.**

## STIMSON'S DUTCH HARBOR PATROL

BY SGT. GREG GARCIA, DUTCH HARBOR AWT



**Boat Officer Gerry Haughey, Engineer Jim Stenglein, AWT John Holm and Sgt. Greg Garcia inspect gear in the Bering Sea on a fair weather day while patrolling about 70 mile west of St. Paul.**

The P/V Stimson ventured on an 11 day patrol from Jan. 20-31 in Area J of the Bering Sea for Opilio Crab, commonly known on the market as Snow Crab. The P/V Stimson traveled 894 miles on the patrol in the area that is west of 166 degree longitude, mainly west of St. Paul or Pribilof Islands.

During the patrol, the P/V Stimson experienced 25-foot plus seas for four days, which is typical for the Bering Sea. The Stimson, at 156-feet long and 38-feet wide, is built for those types of seas. It is uncomfortable as far as getting sleep and cooking in the galley can be a challenge in rough seas. In the past, some personnel who have traveled to the Bering Sea just help out with the specific enforcement have not fared too well with the motion of the sea.

**Boat Officer Gerry Haughey, Engineer Jim Stenglein, AWT John Holm and Sgt. Greg Garcia** were involved in the patrol.

The patrols are conducted every year in October and November for Red King Crab in Bristol Bay, and January, February and April for Opilio Crab west of St. Paul in the Bering Sea.

AWT is the go to agency for enforcement on the fishing grounds. The U.S. Coast Guard cutters are out on the grounds also, but for mainly safety reasons. ■

# PETERSBURG TANNER SEASON

BY CODY LITSTER, PETERSBURG AWT

February in Petersburg means tanner crab season and cold, wet days on the docks.

Commercial tanner crab season in Southeast Alaska started late due to prolonged severe weather in the region. The fishery opened at noon on Valentines Day. Patrol vessels from most Southeast posts covered the common tanner and brown crab fishing areas regardless of the weather.

The P/V Courage from Sitka stirred things up throughout most of the inside waters from Sumner Strait to Seymour Canal. Before the majority of the fishing grounds closed on Feb. 20, nearly every one of the 90 boats registered to fish were contacted on the fishing grounds.

The short season focuses on Petersburg where a large percentage of the fishing fleet offloads. Troopers from Southern Southeast converged on Petersburg for the short tanner season. With more than just one trooper in town, we were the major conversation in the coffee shops. **Ketchikan Trooper Mark Finses** was asked over a dozen times if he was the new trooper in Petersburg.

**Klawock Trooper Kurt Walgenbach, Finses, Public Safety Technician Jessie McCarron** and I estimated that over 6,000 tanner crab were measured along with a few thousand brown king crab. The best news is that there were few violations.

The focused effort to monitor the offload of commercial tanner crab it to turn a problem fishery into a respectable fishery. Two



**Trp. Mark Finses and Public Safety Technician Jessie McCarron measure crab during a commercial fisheries patrol near Petersburg.**



**The P/V Moen comes up on a fishing boat contacted during the tanner crab season near Petersburg.**



**Workers go through a load of crabs caught during the season.**

undersized crab cases were filed in Petersburg Court. Several gear-related cases are still under investigation. In the past violations were common, however, this year careless mistakes

arose that yielded the violations.

The Southeast tanner season is a good example of Alaska Wildlife Troopers gaining compliance through our patrol efforts. ■

## FAMILY ACTS TO FOLLOW



**Cari Miller, wife of Nome Wildlife Trp. Brian Miller, and her daughter, Trinity, pet one of her lead dogs, Junior, after a race on Jan. 27.**

Alaska Wildlife Troopers have extended bragging rights to family members who have done well in the sports arena the past year.

Cari Miller, wife of Nome Wildlife **Trp. Brian Miller**, trained hard for the All-American Sweepstakes Sled Dog Race last spring. Cari and her team of sled dogs traveled from Nome to Candle and back in 5 days, four hours and 10 minutes to take 12th place. The family has a dog yard that numbers right around 25 dogs.

Meanwhile, Raynie Hamlin, the 12-year-old daughter of **Rick Hamlin** from the Aircraft Section, won the Novice 90-pound class of the State Wrestling Championship at the first Alaska Women's Freestyle Wrestling

State Championships held at the Sports Complex in Wasilla on May 9. She also took fifth place in the Co-ed Freestyle Wrestling State Championships the next day. Each of these wins qualifies Raynie for Team Alaska at the Regional Wrestling Championships in Pocatello, Idaho in July.

This is Raynie's first year wrestling, beginning with Teeland Middle School doing collegiate style wrestling in January. When that season ended, she joined the Arctic Warriors Wrestling Club in Wasilla. This club was started buy Mike Adams of the National Marine Fisheries. This is also the first year of the club. They finished fourth in the State Wrestling Championships out of 27 teams. The coaching is of the highest quality. ■



Alaska Wildlife Trooper Sgt. Greg Lavin inspects sheep hunters' paperwork during a sheep enforcement partnership with the National Park Service in August. Park Ranger Rich Richotte, third from left, was along to help check the different remote sheep camps and hunters in the Wrangel-St. Elias Park, the country's largest National Park.



Glennallen based Alaska Wildlife Trooper Jon Simeon, right, shows sheep hunters and Helo 1 Pilot Trooper John Chiri how to determine the age of a sheep by counting the dark rings on the sheep horns.

## QUIST WINS WILDLIFE AWARD

Fairbanks-based Alaska Wildlife Trooper Sgt. Scott Quist was the recipient of the Shikar-Safari Club International's Wildlife Officer of the Year for Alaska, making it the third year in a row a wildlife trooper has won the award.



Quist

The Shikar-Safari Club is an exclusive worldwide organization that works to enhance and preserve wildlife and has placed particular emphasis on endangered and threatened species through the promotion of enforcement of conservation laws and regulations.

Each year, the club sponsors an award for the Wildlife Officer of the Year in all 50 states, 10 Canadian provinces and the territories of both nations.

Quist was nominated for the prestigious award by Lt. Lantz Dahlke, the commander for AWT's D Detachment in Fairbanks.

Quist was presented with a silver plate featuring the Shikar-Safari Club's logo at a luncheon in Fairbanks on April 21.

The 16-year trooper is a certified pilot for both fixed wings and helicopters. He recently took over as the Fairbanks detachment's chief helicopter pilot when Trp. Dennis Roe, who has held that job for a number of years, retired on June 1. ■

## IN MEMORY



Stenglein worked for DPS.

**Vessel Technician II Jim Stenglein**, 49, of Unalaska died on Sept. 7 in Soldotna. Jim was employed with the Department of Public Safety since March 1989, most recently assigned to the P/V Stimson in Dutch Harbor.

Jim's life was filled with his sense of duty and selflessness as he performed several acts of bravery. Jim was credited with saving the lives of two men – once during his service in the U.S. Coast Guard and then while he

worked for DPS. Jim was born on Dec. 27, 1958 in Marquette, Mich. Three years after graduating from high school in Marquette in 1977, Jim joined the U.S. Coast Guard. While serving on the USCG Cutter Cape Coral, he received a commendation for bravery for saving the life of a man who had fallen overboard from a 21-foot cabin cruiser. Jim was honorably discharged from the USCG on Feb. 2, 1988.

Shortly after his discharge, he went to work for the State of Alaska where Jim worked as an engineer on many state patrol vessels during his 19-year tenure. For the past 10 years, he was the vessel technician

for the P/V Stimson, the largest patrol vessel in the state's inventory. Throughout the course of his career, Jim earned many awards and letters of appreciation for his dedicated work and unwavering loyalty. In 1992, he was given a commendation for bravery when he jumped from the desk of a patrol vessel into a pitching skiff to save a trooper sergeant who had fallen into the water. Jim's quick action is credited for saving the man's life. The same year, Jim was awarded the Fish and Wildlife Protection's Civilian of the Year, an award he also won in 2005. This time, it was for his effort in pulling a deceased person from a sinking fishing vessel in the Bering Sea in 40-knot winds and 25-foot seas.

"For those of us lucky enough to have worked with him over the years, we will miss his smiling face and friendship. His duties included keeping all the mechanical systems in shipshape condition, he fulfilled this role in the utmost fashion," said Col. Gary Folger, commander of Alaska Wildlife Troopers. "You could witness the pride Jim took by just passing through the engine room where everything was in immaculate shape. As a deck boss, he was forever vigilant in everyone's safety whether it was loading crab pots or launching a patrol skiff. He will be sorely missed."

Jim is survived by his son, Joseph; his special friend, Mimi Thomas; mother, Flossie LeMieus; father, Karl Stenglein; and several siblings. ■



# DIVISION OF FIRE & LIFE SAFETY

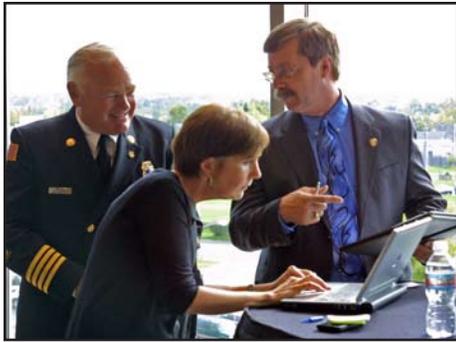


## WELCOME TO RAVEN ISLAND

BY JODIE HETTRICK, FIRE TRAINING ADMINISTRATOR



A boy plays an online fire safety interactive game called Raven Island during the game's launch at the Anchorage Civic and Convention Center on Sept. 19.



Fire and Life Safety Director Dave Tyler, right, talks to Rob Carnahan, on left, about Raven Island as Michelle Harden plays the game. Carnahan and Harden own Compelling Technologies Inc., the company contracted to develop the game.

The Alaska Division of Fire and Life Safety and Compelling Technologies, Inc. announced the launch of Raven Island, an online fire safety game geared toward children growing up in Bush Alaska, at the Anchorage Civic and Convention Center on Sept. 19. Raven Island is an online virtual world where kids connect, play and learn lifesaving fire prevention and safety skills. More than 8 million American kids visit virtual worlds each day, according to Gartner Research.

Children can log on and play the Raven Island from any type of computer without downloading additional software – and the best part – it's free! Just go to [www.raven-island.com](http://www.raven-island.com), select your character and start playing the games.

The idea of the game is to combat Alaska's high rate of fire-related injury among children. Raven Island is the first Internet fire safety education initiative designed to reflect Alaskan native culture and to teach children about fire safety. The interactive, graphic role-playing game is geared toward kids in Alaska because they suffer fire-related injuries at a rate three to five times the national average.

Kids customize their onscreen selves, visit 12 unique attractions or games, and team with other virtual kids to extinguish fires, fix fire hazards or escape danger. The games are a fun way to learn how to stay safe in the real world.

Kids can also make new friends, chat, and earn virtual money (clams) to spend on changing their online appearance.

Raven Island is available online via [www.raven-island.com](http://www.raven-island.com). Raven Island is a companion site to Whyville, a 9-year-old virtual world for children and teens with more than 3 million members and up to 4,000 new additions daily. Whyville is a closely monitored safe place on the Internet for kids with strict codes of conduct for conversation and privacy protection.

Speakers at the launch included Ronda McBride, appointed Rural Advisor to Gov. Sarah Palin, Brian Ipsen of the Department of Homeland Security and Charles Parker, CEO of Alaska Village Initiatives.

Raven Island is funded in part by the federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program and developed for the Alaska Division of Fire and Life Safety by Compelling Technologies, Inc.

The Division will be promoting Raven Island through its public safety education channels, including movie trailers, Boys and Girls Clubs, hospitals, public schools, the home school network, the native Alaskan community, the business community and in the annual fire education campaign.

A special thanks to the Division partner in this endeavor, Compelling Technologies, Inc. Without their expertise in virtual world development, this game would not have been possible. ■

## FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY NEWS

BY MAHLON GREENE

The Division of Fire and Life Safety bid farewell to **Assistant State Fire Marshal Rusty Belanger** in a ceremony at DPS Headquarters on Jan. 23. Rusty moved on to the private sector and will be working for NANA/Colt Engineering, LLC. **Commissioner of Public Safety Walt Monegan** thanked Rusty for his dedication and service to the Division. **Training and Education Bureau Supervisor Jodie Hettrick** presented Rusty with a plaque, thanking Rusty for his guidance and leadership.

The Division welcomed **Kelly Nicoletto** as the new Assistant State Fire Marshal. Kelly had previously worked for the Division as the Assistant State Fire Marshal before pursuing a business venture in the private sector. Kelly had returned to fill a vacancy in the Joint

(Fire, continued on page 47)



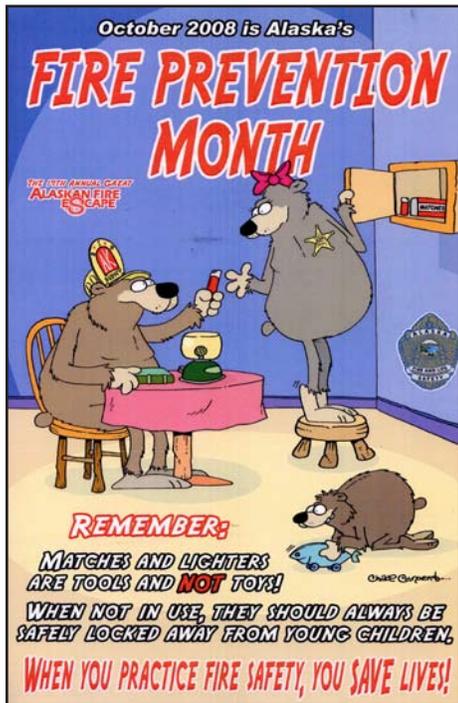
Commissioner Walt Monegan, right, listens as Jodie Hettrick, Fire Training Administrator, gives Rusty Belanger a good-bye speech while holding Belanger's infant son, Eli, during a party held at headquarters in honor of Belanger's departure from DPS.

# Fire, continued from page 46

## Pipeline Office when Chet Weger retired. TRAINING AND EDUCATION BUREAU

Spring was an extremely busy time for the Training and Education Bureau. **Marie Collins**, the Bureau's Statistical Technician II was busy compiling all of the fire and burn injury reports for 2007. These statistics are vital to the Bureau and Fire Departments around the State to help plan future training and prevention programs. Marie handles the Fire Department Registration Program that all fire departments in the state are encouraged to participate in. Fire departments are required to become registered with the state and report to the National Fire Incident Reporting System in order to be eligible for Federal Grants. This registration has to be renewed on an annual basis. Marie also manages the Fire Systems Permit Program. These permits are required to design, install and maintain automatic fire suppression systems in Alaska.

**Fire Training Specialists Mahlon Greene** and **Todd Kollar** were at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Md. as peer reviewers for the Assistance to Fire Fighter Prevention and Safety Grants. This was a great opportunity and learning experience to not only represent Alaska, but to see



Cartoonist Chad Carpenter, who pens the Alaskan comic strip "Tundra," was tapped to design this year's Fire Prevention Poster.



Village Public Safety Officer recruits go through fire training at the Public Safety Training Academy in Sitka.



what programs other departments around the country are trying to do.

**Fire Training Specialists Steve Schreck** and **Greene** traveled to Sitka to help train the new Village Public Safety Officer recruits. The VPSO recruits attend two weeks of fire training while at the Public Safety Training Academy in Sitka. In many cases, the VPSO becomes the fire chief in their assigned community if there isn't one when they arrive.

The Training and Education Bureau sponsored booth space at Home Shows in Fairbanks, Mat-Su and Juneau. These shows are a great venue to get the word out about fire prevention and safety equipment for the home. Greene staffed a booth at this year's annual Rural Small Business Conference. Greene also taught a workshop on Rural Community Fire Prevention. In this workshop, Greene stressed the fact that it is up to the entire community to prevent death, injury and loss of property do to fire.

### LIFE SAFETY INSPECTION BUREAU

The Life Safety Inspection Bureau had a very busy quarter with inspections, training and investigations. **Deputy Fire Marshal I Nathan Rocheleau** worked in 20 below zero temperatures while investigating a house fire in February. ■



Frost covers Deputy Fire Marshal I Nathan Rocheleau digs in 20 below zero temperatures while investigating a house fire.



OPERATION FLAG POLE – Deputy Fire Marshal **John Bond**, left, and Fire Training Specialist **Mahlon Greene**, put their backs into straightening the flag pole in front of the DPS booth at the Alaska State Fair. Fellow Fire Training Specialist **Steve Schreck** (not pictured) also eye-balled the pole to ensure it was straight. Bond provided life-safety inspections on booths and tents prior to the fair while Greene was once again a constant fixture at the booth.

# DIVISION OF STATEWIDE SERVICES

## NEW FACES AND PROMOTIONS



**Carlson**

The Network Support Group added three new faces to its ranks on Oct. 13.

Network Manager **Mike Rudisill** came to DPS from Alaska Regional Hospital. **Kim Carlson** filled Bob Ihrig's position as a new Network Technician II to help **Samir Obeidi** field cries for help from people all over the state frustrated with their computers. Carlson was most recently at the Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center. Network Specialist II **Ray**



**Rudisill**

**Morgan** transferred from the Department of Labor to help take care of the Department's servers

It is going to take a little while to get everyone up to speed. Plus, the Statewide Services has plenty of projects to keep them busy.

Meanwhile, three people on the programming side of the house were recently promoted as part of a reorganization of the



**Morgan**

group. **Ayla Donalson** was recently promoted to be Supervisor for Data Management, and **Bert Welch** was also recently promoted to be Supervisor for Windows Programming. Both will start recruiting to fill the vacant positions in the coming weeks. The most recent shift is **Lynne McCarter** to Supervisor for Mainframe Programming.

Welcome Mike, Ray and Kim and congratulations to Ayla, Bert and Lynne. ■

Statewide Services Director David Schade handed out years of service pins to his employees in June.



**Kathy Richardson**  
5 years



**Jenifer Burris**  
10 years



**Daniel Rogers**  
5 years



**Bob Ihrig**  
15 years



**Terrie Satterfield**  
5 years



**Alice Poncho**  
10 years



**Joy Pennington**  
10 years



**Georgia Howard**  
5 years



**Bob Ihrig** prepares to cut into his retirement cake.

After working for the Department of Public Safety for 17 as a microcomputer/network technician, Bob Ihrig retired on Aug. 15. In his position, Ihrig visited many of the department offices across the state and assisted personnel with help desk calls. Bob has been a critical asset for the Department. His technical expertise and personal dedication to getting the job done will be missed throughout the State.

Co-workers at DPS headquarters threw a retirement party for Ihrig on Aug. 14 that included a cake decorated with a photo of his red Corvette. ■



# DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES



## OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW

BY BOB DEGROOT, CHIEF PROCUREMENT OFFICER

The Department of Public Safety Supply Section completed a very large weapons procurement contract in September with Northern Security Supply of Anchorage that greatly benefits the Department.

This innovative barter contract involved the trade-in of 1,649 state surplus weapons in return for 176 new Glock G22 pistols, 30 new Glock G27 pistols and 412 new high-capacity spare magazines. Additionally, the G22s will ship from the Glock factory with three high-capacity magazines each while the G27s will arrive each with two high-capacity magazines. This trade-in is valued at \$93,700, yet there was no state funding required to execute the contract.

The arrival of the new Glock weapons was originally expected in January, but came instead in mid-October.

Trade-in of state surplus weapons in return for new duty weapons under a state contract is authorized under AS 18.65.340, Disposal of firearms and ammunition by the state and municipalities. Surplus weapons include confiscated weapons, obsolete state agency weapons (including DPS, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Fish and Game and Department of Natural Resources) and found weapons. This trade-in contract required the approval of the Department of Administration's State Property Office as well as the State Chief Procurement Officer.

Northern Security Supply plans to sell these weapons at their retail location on Old Seward Highway in Anchorage.

DPS Supply staff members who worked many long hours to make this contract happen included **Chris Brooks, John Surles, Otis Rogers, Annie Messer, Joan Tremont, Terry Adlawan** and **Tom Hull**. We also would like to recognize former employee **Lou Butler**, now retired,



**State surplus guns sit tagged and ready to trade for new weapons. The Supply section traded in 1,649 surplus weapons in return for new Glock pistols and magazines.**

who also contributed numerous hours to prepare for this contract. The logistics and administrative effort to receive, inspect, document, store and inventory a diverse weapons stockpile of this magnitude is very demanding and time-consuming. The DPS Supply staff worked as a cohesive and efficient team to execute this contract.

We would also like to thank all the Evidence Custodians throughout the Department who work very closely with DPS Supply to turn-in surplus weapons. Additionally, we would like to thank the AST and AWT Detachment Commanders for their dedicated support of this very beneficial project. ■

## BON VOYAGE



**Fred Schmitz at his retirement party.**

DPS Finance Officer Fred Schmitz retired on April 30. A celebration of Fred's 30-plus year's career was held in Anchorage and in Juneau in early April. Fred started as a "temp" with the State of Alaska as a 10<sup>th</sup> grader at the Department of Administration. He started his full-time permanent employment on April 2, 1979 and throughout his career worked for Departments of Administration, Community and Regional Affairs, Health and Social Services, Revenue, Labor and twice for the Public Safety. Schmitz worked for DPS first in the early 80's and then starting in July of 1993 to his retirement. He was promoted to Finance Officer of the Department of Public Safety in October 1997. ■

## SUPPLY'S WELCOME TO DPS

BY BOB DEGROOT, CHIEF PROCUREMENT OFFICER

The DPS Supply staff welcomed **John Surles** to the Procurement Specialist I position. His first day was Aug. 22.

Surles comes to us from Chenega Integrated Services, where he served with their armed security forces company for base security contractor operations on Elmendorf Air Force Base. He also has several years of private sector experience with armed security companies in Anchorage.

Surles is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran where he served as a Unit Armorer and Weapons Safety Supervisor during his four years of active duty.

He is Supply's DPS State Property Officer, working directly with the many DPS state property custodians throughout Alaska who manage our state property inventory records. Additionally, he works closely with the AST and AWT Divisions to procure household goods moving services for relocating Troopers and their families.

He's also tasked with a wide variety of small procurement purchases for equipment in support of numerous DPS organizations, including AST, AWT, the Crime Lab and the VPSO program.

Surles will also be our DPS State Weapons Officer, where he will be responsible for managing accountability for DPS duty weapons as well as our state confiscated weapon stockpile.

Surles has a strong record of career achievement and we are confident he will do a great job providing supply support for our many customers throughout the Department.

Also new to the Supply family this year is **Joan Tremont**, DPS Supply Administrative Clerk III, who started on April 21.

**Chris Brooks** was promoted to Procurement Specialist II from Procurement Specialist I on June 2, 2008.

(Supply, continued on page 50)



Lou Butler receives an award for Honorable Service by AST Deputy Director Maj. John Glick at Butler's retirement party in Supply. Butler retired July 1.

Supply, continued from page 49

Supply said goodbye to **Lou Butler**, who retired on July 1 after seven years of service in the Department as a Procurement Specialist I/II. He was honored at a retirement luncheon in the Supply warehouse on June 26. Lou was presented with the Alaska State Troopers award for Honorable Service by AST Deputy Director Maj. John Glick. ■

Pictured at right, Dale Galosich, Accounting Supervisor, was surprised by an office full of balloons on birthday Aug. 15. When asked how old she is, she happily replied "two years away from retirement."



## OTHER NEWS

### TEAM CSI BRAVES COLD WEATHER FOR CHALLENGE

BY TOM WORTMAN, DNA FORENSIC SCIENTIST

Just a couple of weeks after a disheartening 22 inches were dumped in the Anchorage area, the Department of Public Safety's "Team CSI: Alaska On Wheels" hit the road between Houston High School and the Talkeetna Lodge. This year's team included **ABI Inv. Eric Burroughs**, retired investigator **Sgt. Curt Harris**, forensic scientist **Lesley Hammer** and her husband, Mike, and **forensic scientists Jessica Hogan** and **Tom Wortman**.

The team was riding to raise money for the American Lung Association's annual Clean Air Challenge which spans two days (May 10-11) and 120 miles. This was the fifth year in a row for Team CSI's participation and another year of great weather.

Throughout the first day, the sun shined and sporadic tufts of melting snow accented the landscape. The second day was more of the same until the last few miles where gusts of wind made for a strong headwind. Everyone completed the trek without injury, although by the end Burroughs realized he carried around a large rock inside his equipment bag for the whole weekend. He is currently investigating who may have slipped that extra weight in.

This year the team raised \$4,828 in support of the American Lung Association. The Alaska Clean Air Challenge raised \$297,682 all together with more than 300



Team CSI members, from left, Lesley and Mike Hammer, Tom Wortman, Jessica Hogan, retired Sgt. Curt Harris and Investigator Eric Burroughs.

riders. These funds are used for research and advanced care for people suffering from lung disease, education on the effects of smoking and progression of

indoor and outdoor air quality.

Special thanks go out to all the Department of Public Safety employees that donated this year to the cause. ■



Team CSI members finishing the trek in Houston, with smiles (grimaces?) on their faces.

## BIRTHS

Soldotna-based **Trp. Michael Shelley** and his wife, Janet, are seeing double after the Sept. 3 birth of their twins Benjamin Christopher (left) and Jonathan Michael (right). Benjamin weighed 4 pounds 13 ounces, and Jonathan was 5 pounds 11 ounces.



Other births around the state:

- **Visual Information Specialist Justin Freeman** and his wife, Jaime, welcomed son Oliver Lee Freeman, born on Aug. 29, 2008. He weighed 7 pounds, 14 ounces. He joins brother Jaxon.

- Juneau **Finance Accounting Technician Dianne Lanuza** had a baby boy, Allen Jayre Lanuza Garcia, on Jan. 14, 2008. Allen weighed 8 pounds, 7 ounces.

- Aniak-based Alaska Wildlife Trooper **Trp. Tim Hall** and his wife, Janie, welcomed their daughter Natalie Jayne Hall, born at 8:27 a.m. on May 19, 2008. She weighed 7 pounds, 9 ounces and measured 18-1/4 inches. Natalie is the newest addition to a long-standing DPS family. Her great-grandfather, Francis Hamersky, was a latent fingerprint examiner in Juneau, and her grandmother, **Carolyn Hall**, is the administrative assistant for AWT in Juneau. Natalie's uncle, **Andrew Hall**, is a seasonal Public Safety Technician I in Haines. Do you think it might be in their blood?

- Mat-Su West based **Trp. Chris Bitz** and his wife, Sonya, are proud parents of Colton G. Bitz. Colton was born on at 1:59 p.m. on March 1, 2008 at Mat-Su Regional Hospital in the Valley. Colton weighed 7 pounds, 13 ounces and measured 20 inches long.

- Fairbanks-based **Trp. Austin Macdonald** and his wife, Kim, welcomed daughter Natelle Macdonald. Natelle was born at 11:48 a.m., on Oct. 24. She weighed 6 pounds and 9 ounces. She is also the granddaughter of **Lt. Craig Macdonald**, C Detachment Deputy Commander posted in Bethel. Natelle is the fourth grandchild for grandpa Macdonald.

- Sitka-based Alaska Wildlife **Trp. Shaun Kuzakin** and wife, Teri, welcomed daughter Neva Nicole Kuzakin, born at Juneau at 8:10 a.m. on June 26, 2008 in Juneau. She weighed 9 pounds, 1 ounce and measured 21 inches. She joins brother Hayden.

- Klawock post supervisor **Sgt. John Brown** and wife, Rebecca, are pleased to announce the arrival of daughter Isabella Grace at 8:37 a.m. on July 2, 2008. Isabella weighed 7 pounds and measured 20 inches.

- **Cissy Buck**, an administrative clerk with the Plan Review Bureau of the Fire and Life Safety Division, her husband, Mike, and son Mason, welcomed Kailah Vally Buck born at approximately 3:30 p.m. on Oct. 27, 2008. She weighed 6 pounds, 5 ounces and measured 19 inches long. ■

## FAREWELL TO OLD FRIENDS

March was a sad month as the Department of Public Safety lost two friends.

Retired **First Sergeant Jack Young** passed away March 15 after succumbing to a long-term illness. He was 65. Young served with the Alaska State Troopers from 1970 until he retired in 1986. During those 16 years, he worked out of posts located in Anchorage (70-71, 76-80, 82-86), Haines (71-73), Juneau (73) and Palmer (80-82). He was promoted to corporal and then first sergeant in 1977. Young worked for the Airport Police since 1965 before becoming a trooper. He also served with the U.S. Air Force from July 1961 until July 1965, during which time he moved to Alaska. The memorial service was held in Anchorage.

Nine days later, **Janet Palmer**, the Kenai Judicial Services Clerk for nine years, succumbed to her battle with cancer. She was 59. Palmer was born in Renton Wash., and grew up in Seattle. Her husband, Sterling resident Les Palmer, lured her to Alaska. The couple was married in 1981.

DPS extends condolences to the families of Young and Palmer. ■

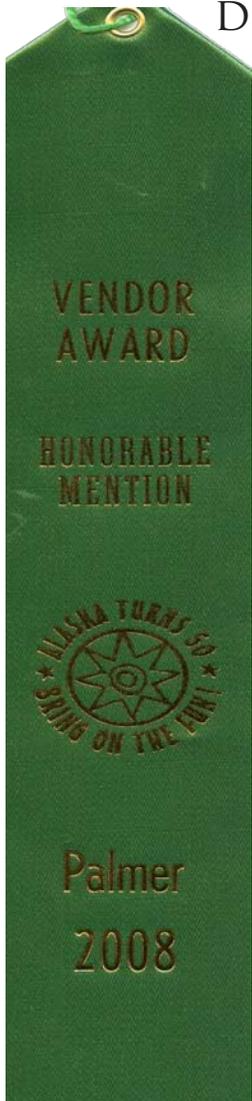


Jessie Craig, a DPS chili feed and silent auction co-organizer, puts some finishing touches on the condiments while others load up on food. The SHARE campaign's annual DPS chili feed/silent auction at DPS headquarters on Oct. 10 collected a total of \$1,461, topping last year's total by over \$500. Thank you again for all your contributions that made the chili feed/silent auction a great success.



Deputy Director Maj. Matt Leveque looks over the items donated for the silent auction.

## DPS BOOTH WINS AT STATE FAIR



Darren, the D.A.R.E. mascot, or VPSO Mike Nemeth in costume, gets a hug from a kid. Darren, Wildlife Investigations Unit Clerk Bobbie Benti in the Safety Bear costume and D.A.R.E. Statewide Coordinator Naomi Sweetman greeted people and handed out goodies during Kids Day at the Alaska State Fair on Aug. 22.



**PICTURE PERFECT**  
B Detachment Commander Capt. Dennis Casanovas primps D Detachment Deputy Commander Lt. Ron Wall before Wall's photo shoot for the 2007 Annual Report.

## VPSO TAPPED FOR FIRE STANDARDS COUNCIL

Nelson Lagoon Village Public Safety Officer Mike Nemeth was appointed to the Alaska Fire Standards Council on June 9. Nemeth initially served as VPSO in St. George from 2002 to 2004. He was rehired as the VPSO in Nelson Lagoon in July 2005 and transferred to St. George in October that same year. He transferred back to Nelson Lagoon in July 2006. Besides his VPSO duties, he is a volunteer firefighter. He is acting fire chief at Nelson Lagoon Fire and Rescue and served as the chief of the St. George Island Volunteer Fire Department. In addition, Nemeth served in the U.S. Army as a cavalry scout.

The 11-member AFS Council establishes the minimum training and performance standards for certification of fire services personnel and establishes the fire training standards in the State of Alaska.

## GIVING IT HIS BEST SHOT



ABI Sgt. Dave Hanson takes another shot on the fairway. Hanson and teammates Cold Case Investigator Jim Gallen, ABI Commander Capt. John Papasodora and ABADE Investigator Kyle Young participated in the sixth annual D.A.R.E. Alaska, Inc. Golf Tournament at Moose Run Golf Course on the morning of June 18.

# THE DPS NEWSLETTER

2008

STATE OF ALASKA  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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GOVERNOR
- JOE MASTERS  
COMMISSIONER
- JOHN GLASS  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
- COLONEL AUDIE HOLLOWAY  
AST DIRECTOR
- COLONEL GARY FOLGER  
AWT DIRECTOR
- MAJOR MATT LEVEQUE  
AST DEPUTY DIRECTOR
- MAJOR JOHN GLICK  
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AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

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